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Blair orders investigation into Labour MP's death

Blair orders investigation into Labour MP's death. By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent. TONY BLAIR has ordered an investigation into the death last week of a Labour MP who left a suicide note which blamed two senior party colleagues for a whispering campaign which could have contributed to his death.

Labour grants Britannia a costly reprieve

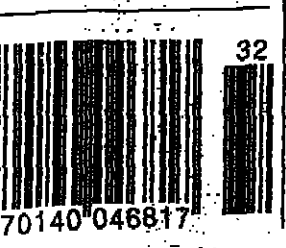
Labour grants Britannia a costly reprieve. By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent. TAXPAYERS' money will be required to keep the Royal Yacht Britannia afloat despite a pledge by ministers yesterday to finance a £50 million refit entirely from the private sector.



The Queen Mother, who is 97 today, was greeted by a crowd of 1,000 singing Happy Birthday, as she left Sandringham church yesterday

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Virgin takes on the big banks

Virgin takes on the big banks. Richard Branson's Virgin Group is taking on the might of the high street banks by launching a 24-hour telephone banking operation.

Survivor tells of avalanche

Survivor tells of avalanche. Stuart Driver, an Australian ski instructor, told how his wife drowned when she was swept from his grasp after they were buried in their bed by an avalanche.

United triumph

United triumph. Manchester United beat Chelsea 4-2 on penalties to win the Charity Shield after the traditional opening game of the season ended in a 1-1 draw.

Burroughs, the first hippy, dies at 83

Burroughs, the first hippy, dies at 83. FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK. THE writer William Burroughs, widely acknowledged as the world's first hippy, has died, aged 83.

Holloioake brothers get England call-up

Holloioake brothers get England call-up. BY SIMON WILDE. ENGLAND'S hard-pressed cricket selectors have turned to a teenager who was born in Melbourne in their search for someone to help them to beat Australia in the fifth Test starting in Nottingham on Thursday.

The Law according to Turow. SCOTT TUROW. THE LAW OF OUR FATHERS.

Labour moves to limit damage over Foreign Secretary's affair

'No question' of an outstanding minister resigning over marital difficulties, reports Andrew Pierce

THE Labour leadership launched a concerted damage-limitation exercise yesterday after it was disclosed that Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was leaving his wife to live with his House of Commons secretary.

Party strategists, who ruthlessly exploited David Mello's marital difficulties in the first three months of the last Conservative Government, were forced on the defensive after a tabloid newspaper revealed that Mr Cook, 51, was conducting an affair with Gwyneth Regan, 41, his secretary for the last five years.

Senior party figures rushed to the defence of Mr Cook who they described as an outstanding Foreign Secretary. They made clear that there was no question of him resigning.

But there was no disguising the dismay of some MPs over the timing of the revelations, which they feared could cast a shadow over the celebrations to mark the first 100 days of the Blair Government later this week.

Their attempts to play down the issue were undermined by the release of a Labour Party election pamphlet, issued in the last week of the Uxbridge by-election, which revived the Cecil Parkinson affair. The leaflet highlighted the Tory party chairman's resignation from the Thatcher Government over his relationship

with Sara Keays, who was also his House of Commons secretary, 14 years ago. Tory MPs accused Labour of double standards.

Mr Cook returned to Britain on Wednesday from a three-day tour of Bosnia and Croatia to be confronted by reporters from the *News of the World* who had been tipped off that he was sharing his London flat with Mrs Regan during the week.

The Foreign Secretary issued a statement late on Saturday night revealing that his 28-year marriage to his wife, Margaret, 51, was at an end. He said he was solely to blame. He announced that he planned to live with Mrs Regan, 41, whose marriage broke up three years ago.

While the break-up of the marriage surprised few people in the upper echelons of the Labour Party the couple had publicly, at least, been carrying on as normal. Two weeks ago they dined with the Prince of Wales at Highgrove, his country home in Gloucestershire. The previous month Mrs Cook, a medical consultant who spends most of the time at their Edinburgh home, accompanied the Foreign Secretary to the official celebrations to mark the handover of Hong Kong to China.

A Downing Street spokesman said the Prime Minister regarded the matter as "a

personal tragedy" for those involved. There was no question of his "truly outstanding Foreign Secretary" being forced to resign. Peter Mandelson, one of Mr Blair's key allies, also spoke up for Mr Cook in a series of interviews.

In October 1996 Mr Blair, asked how he would respond to ministerial indiscretions under his Government, replied: "It's nothing to do with preaching to people about their private lives or back-to-basics or any of the rest of it. We should rightly steer away from talking to people about their private lives as politicians."

The Tories, who declined to make any comment on Mr Cook's personal difficulties, nevertheless took pleasure in releasing the Uxbridge by-election pamphlet to reinforce their charge of Labour hypocrisy. It shows a photograph of Neil and Christine Hamilton under the headline "still up to their necks in sleaze" alongside Lord Parkinson's photograph under a heading: "Same old Tories - same old Faces."

It said: "Parkinson. Forced to resign due to Government's embarrassment at revelations of his indiscretions under Mrs Thatcher 14 years ago. Now, Brought out of retirement to be party chairman and to take on sleaze!"



Robin Cook and his wife of 28 years, Margaret. He is to live with his secretary

MI6 investigates Patten security leak claim

By Andrew Pierce

A SECURITY investigation has been launched into allegations that Chris Patten leaked classified documents about negotiations over Hong Kong's future to the broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby.

Senior Whitehall sources confirmed yesterday that MI6, Britain's overseas security service, was following up claims that Mr Patten handed over material to Mr Dimbleby for his book, *The Last Governor*.

Confirmation that an inquiry was underway was dismissed by allies of

Mr Patten as political mischief making by his enemies at the Foreign Office. The former governor gave Mr Dimbleby privileged access while he was writing the book about his five years in Hong Kong.

The Foreign Office declined to comment or say what penalties Mr Patten, the former Conservative Party chairman, could face if the investigation verified the claims concerning material that related to secret negotiations with China over Hong Kong in the mid-1980s.

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, said yesterday that he

did not know if Mr Patten would be charged under the Official Secrets Act. "All I know is that the issue - the matter, rather than the individual - is under investigation by the authorities," he said. He told *The World at One* on Radio 4: "I'm not going to speculate on the outcome of that. But it would be irresponsible for the Government not to take the action when there appears to have been a leak of intelligence material."

The investigation was instigated after extracts from Mr Dimbleby's book were serialised in *The Sunday Times*. Whitehall sources said yesterday

that the content bore a resemblance to information contained in documents to which Mr Patten had requested access earlier this year. Mr Patten had been asked to ensure that no one else had access to the papers and that he destroyed them after he had read them. No direct quotations appeared in the extracts. However, Foreign Office officials who sought the investigation suspect that some of the material could only have come from the classified documents.

The Foreign Office was also alerted by protests from Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former foreign sec-

retary, Lord Wilson of Tillyhorn, who was Mr Patten's predecessor, and Sir Percy Craddock, adviser on China to Baroness Thatcher. The three men are accused in the Dimbleby book by Mr Patten of being too close to China.

Mr Dimbleby, who is one of Mr Patten's best friends, declined to be drawn on the matter and denied any knowledge of the MI6 inquiry. "I don't divulge my sources of information," he said.

Mr Patten, who is writing a book of his own about Asia at his home in France, was "not available for comment."

NEWS IN BRIEF

BA staff to get shares as dispute continues

Nearly half a million free shares are being prepared for distribution among the 43,000 staff at British Airways in spite of the dispute by cabin crew remaining unresolved. Each employee, including those who went on strike, will receive ten free shares to mark the tenth anniversary of BA's privatisation. This is in addition to the share of airline profits amounting to a minimum of £1,100 for each employee. About 85 per cent of BA employees are now shareholders holding 4 per cent of the company's equity.

Talks between airline management and union negotiators at the conciliation service ACAS have been continuing for more than ten days with little sign of settlement.

Force-feeding permitted

Patients suffering from anorexia can legally be force-fed to save their lives according to new guidelines for the medical profession to be issued this week by the Mental Health Act Commission. In January last year doctors concluded that a European Court of Human Rights ruling meant they were unable to force-feed Nikki Hughes, 23, who had been progressively starving herself to death since she was 16. After she died questions were raised about the legal advice.

Teacher's body found

A body retrieved from the sea near Beachy Head was identified as that of Adrian Stark, the public school music teacher granted police bail after being charged with possessing paedophile photographs. Mr Stark vanished last week after Surrey police seized a large collection of material from his home at St John's School in Leatherhead, Surrey. Dover coastguards said that the condition of the body suggested a fall from the 550ft cliffs.

Butler becomes Master

Sir Robin Butler, the former head of the Civil Service who headed the Conservative Government's inquiry into political sleaze, is to become the new Master of University College, Oxford. Sir Robin, who studied at the college, will take up the post when he retires as Cabinet Secretary in January. He takes over from the former Master, John Albery, who resigned after causing offence in an after-dinner speech.

Alex Kitson dies at 75

Alex Kitson, former chairman of the Labour Party and veteran trade unionist, has died from cancer at the age of 75. Mr Kitson, who died on Saturday in hospital in Edinburgh, served as deputy general secretary of the giant transport workers union until his retirement in 1986. He was also chairman of the Labour Party in 1980. He was once described as "so far to the left as to be invisible to the naked eye".

Obituary, page 21

Bees injure drivers

Two motorists were recovering yesterday from having been stung by scores of bees after a car hit five beehives. Aaron Porter and Barry O'Keefe escaped an accident involving three cars without injury. Mr Porter, 33, had swerved off the A5 near Atherstone, Warwickshire, and hit the beehives. Mr O'Keefe, 29, from Atherstone, had been stung more than a hundred times.

Honey project, page 8

Store scuppers hat ruse

The retailer Bhs has stopped a ruse which it estimates was costing thousands of pounds in millinery sales. Sources at the store chain said that customers were buying hats late in the week for a wedding or social event and returning it the next Monday for a refund. Now the chain, which does not open on Sundays, is insisting that hats are returned within 24 hours if the customer wants a refund.

Killer weeded out

A prototype weeder being developed by English Nature could be used to tackle ragwort, which can cause a slow and painful death if eaten by animals. The machine, developed in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural College, in Cirencester, can be towed by tractor and removes the weed without affecting surrounding flora. It tests prove effective, the weeder could be launched by October.

Eisteddfod with spirit

The Welsh National Eisteddfod has lifted its ban on alcohol for the first time this year. Hywel Edwards, its organiser, said that it was considered safer to have a bar on site to have people drinking to pubs nearby. But he said that the plans had met some resistance in Bala, North Wales, the site for his year's eisteddfod, which had a strong non-conformist tradition.

Homes-for-votes witness hitch

By Alexandra Frean

THE district auditor who ordered Dame Shirley Porter, former leader of Westminster Council, and five former colleagues to repay £31.6 million over the "homes for votes" scandal, will not give evidence at the High Court appeal against his ruling.

John McGill, who accused Dame Shirley and her team of wilful misconduct in masterminding a gerrymandering exercise in the borough in the late Eighties, has let it be known that he believes it would be inappropriate for him to appear in the proceedings, which are scheduled to

be heard on October 2. Lord Nolan, in his report on standards in local government last month, argued that the surcharge system under which Dame Shirley and her colleagues were found guilty was unsatisfactory because it cast the district auditor, who is responsible for investigating the conduct of councillors and officers and then passing judgment on them, in the roles of "prosecutor, judge and jury".

Friends of Dame Shirley believe that as the chief expert witness, Mr McGill should be cross-examined on his investigation and findings.

MP death

Continued from page 1
Friends liked him. I have never heard these rumours. They were nothing to do with me," he said.

Pressure has been building for some time for the party to set up an inquiry. The revelation of a suicide note, written on a computer in Mr McMaster's home in Johnstone near Glasgow, forced the hand of the party leadership. Mr Brown, in a statement, said: "I have a copy of the letter. The Prime Minister has asked me to investigate. I am investigating."

It was a mystery how the letter, which was supposed to be under the control of the police and legal authorities in Scotland, was passed on to the Chief Whip.

Mr Stott, who had come to Mr McMaster's aid after he was mugged outside his London home in June, said: "There has to be an inquiry. Gordon was under enormous pressure. I told the whips that he was in a lot of trouble and that they should keep their eye on him. The rumours must have been a contributory factor in his death."

In the letter Mr McMaster asked his family and friends for forgiveness and begged his parents, William and Alison, not to blame themselves for his death. He likened himself to a soldier who dies for the cause, enabling a fitter man to take over.

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هكذا من الأصل

Latest victim of CJD lived near 'mad cow' farm

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MOTHER of four has become the twenty-first victim of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which scientists have linked with eating beef.

Sue Carey, 36, used to live in Mersham, Kent, near where the first "mad cow" was identified on a farm in High Halden in 1985, and where a cluster of people have since died from CJD. Between 1985 and 1987, Mrs Carey and her husband, Henry, 43, a labourer and tractor driver, lived in a tied cottage on an estate owned by the film producer Lord Brabourne, which was home to a dairy herd and beef cattle. "Whether it was a coincidence or not you just don't know," Mr Carey said. "We ate plenty of beef and Sue would eat a ham-

burger as a treat when she went into town. In those days we didn't know anything about BSE because no one had heard of it."

An adjourned inquest into her death in March is expected to reopen next month. The National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh has just confirmed that she was suffering from the new strain of the incurable brain disease.

Last year a woman and a man, both 29, from Kent died of the new variant, which afflicts the young. A 36-year-old man with suspected CJD is still alive. A 51-year-old woman from Ashford died in 1989 and her twin sister last year, both of old-type CJD, probably inherited.

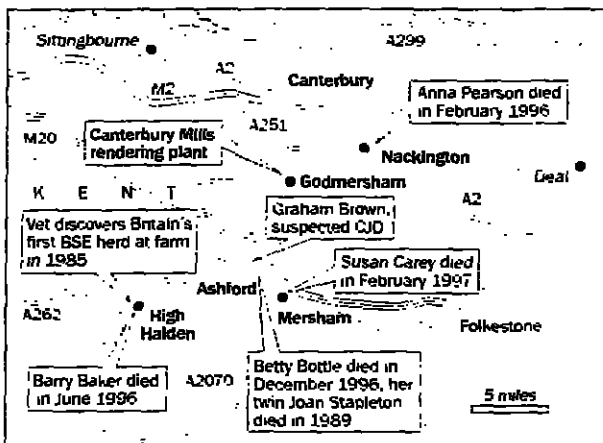
Some medical observers have criticised Canterbury

Mills rendering plant for spreading effluent, including boiled cattle remains, on land in Godmersham, Kent. Fears that this might pollute the water supply were dismissed by other experts.

In 1995, while the Carey family was living on a farm in Esher, Surrey, Mrs Carey began complaining of shortness of breath, at first diagnosed as asthma. Suspecting her condition was aggravated by fumes from Heathrow, the Careys moved last autumn to Gosberton in Lincolnshire.

"At first she became deeply depressed, which was so totally unlike her, and I thought that she was having a nervous breakdown," Mr Carey said. "She would go to collect the kids from the school bus, but instead of getting there at 3.30 she went at midday. The housework didn't get done and she'd sit for hours on the sofa just doing nothing. It just wasn't like Sue. She believed she had done it all."

Mrs Carey died on March 8, her eldest daughter Rebecca's 5th birthday. "We are trying to get normality back into our lives but we have nothing and there is no money," Mr Carey said. He has given up work so he can look after Rebecca, Tracey, 13, Amanda, 11, and Christopher, 7. The family eats little meat, only pork. "You would never catch me eating beef again," Mr Carey said.



The bronze figure of "Our Little Fan", a favourite terrier, was commissioned by Baroness Burdett-Coutt in 1872.

Terrier opens door on the past

John Vincent on an auction lot that recalls an heiress rich with kindness

FOR years it languished as a doorstep in a butcher's shop. Now this bronze figure of a beloved pet has revived memories of a Victorian heiress who received a peerage for the care she lavished on human beings and animals alike.

The cross-eyed terrier, called Fan, belonged to Baroness Burdett-Coutt (1814-1906), who inherited her grandfather's banking fortune in 1837. She was a renowned socialite, whose friends and admirers included Charles Dickens, Prince Louis Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington.

Angela Burdett-Coutt was also a luminary in the RSPCA, and commissioned the Edinburgh sculpture of

Greyfriars Bobby, the faithful dog who refused to leave his master's grave. The memorial, on Candlemaker Row, near Greyfriars Kirk, is a favourite of tourists.

Two years earlier she commissioned the bronze of "Our Little Fan". The 28cm by 58.5cm (11in by 23in) piece goes on show today at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, and is expected to fetch up to £5,000 at a Sotheby's auction there on August 26.

Fan was made by George Carter, the son of a south London cobbler who became an important designer for the renowned jewellers and silversmiths Hunt and Roskell. The bronze was exhibited at the Royal Academy but its



Burdett-Coutt: fortune from eponymous bank

whereabouts later were unclear until it appeared as a doorstep at Wrights butcher's shop in York. In the 1950s it was given to the grandmother of the present, unnamed, owner as a token of

appreciation for her hard work in the shop.

The good works of Baroness Burdett-Coutt, who became a peer in 1871, included a shelter for fallen women, homes for the poor and endowments for churches. Her London residence at 1 Stratton Street became a focal point for political, literary, scientific and artistic luminaries. Charles Dickens, a close friend, described her as "a most excellent creature".

The baroness, who did not marry until 1881, was renowned for saying: "Life whether in man or beast is sacred."

Diana Keith Neal, head of Sotheby's 19th and 20th century sculpture department, said: "The characterful dog reveals a fascinating story of Victorian patronage."

Victorian Britain, page 7

Pop singers and sergeant majors share risks over sore throats

THE former Beatle George Harrison, who had recently complained of throat pain, was admitted to hospital last week for routine investigations. These included a laryngoscopy so that the surgeon could look at his laryngeal cords; swollen glands in his neck were removed at the same time for microscopic examination.

Any patient who has to use his or her voice to earn a living, whether on the stage,

parade ground or political platform, has an increased risk of developing cancer of the larynx, a late result of the chronic inflammation that can follow overuse. A tumour in the larynx frequently spreads to the lymph glands in the neck and it is therefore not surprising that the surgeon needed to exclude this possibility. It is reported that the pathologists did not find any cancer in Harrison's glands.

Singers and sergeant ma-



Dr Thomas Stuttford

riors are not the only people at risk from cancer of the larynx: so are those who both smoke and drink - it is the combina-

tion that is particularly disastrous. In most cases of cancer of the larynx, unexplained

hoarseness is the first symptom. Anyone who is hoarse for more than two or three weeks, or whose voice has started to tire unusually easily, should have a laryngoscopy to determine the cause. There is usually a simple explanation for the swelling of glands in the neck, but when the cause is a malignancy it may be a secondary tumour that has spread from other areas.

A possible but mundane explanation for Harrison's re-

current sore throats, and those of many other people, has recently been investigated. Many people are suffering from nothing worse than oesophageal reflux as a result of eating too late at night, and as they grow older of putting on too much weight around their middle. About 25 per cent of people who have oesophageal reflux, and whose stomach contents flow back into the bottom of their gullet when they lie down, are unaware of

it. But the acid from the stomach not only inflames the lining of the oesophagus, but the fumes from it rise up into the larynx and throat.

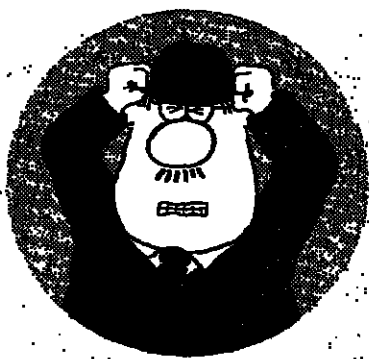
Resulting inflammation from the acidic fumes makes them more likely to suffer sore throats in the morning and recurrent upper respiratory tract infections. The answer to the problem is to eat early, to lose weight and to sleep with the head end of the bed propped up.

Graduates are aware how anti-social smoking is considered. Only 1 per cent want to work in an office where people can smoke at their desks, and 42 per cent feel that an employer would recruit a non-smoker instead of a smoker, all other things being equal. □ Style and youth magazines such as *The Face*, *Loaded* and *Time Out* are criticised by the Health Education Authority today for using pictures of models and stars with "positive images of smoking".

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4. Fill in the form by following the step-by-step guidance notes. Make sure you understand them before putting pen to paper.
5. If you need help, contact your tax office - the phone number is at the top of your tax return. Or, in the evenings and at weekends call the Self Assessment Helpline on 0645 000444*.
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مكتبة من الأصل

Royal talks that salvaged Britannia

Prince of Wales led a high-level mission to Blair Government which rescued yacht, writes Andrew Pierce

AS THE sun set over British rule in Hong Kong on July 1, Tony Blair boarded the Royal Yacht *Britannia* for the first time and what was expected to be the last time before the vessel was decommissioned. But, as one extraordinary chapter in British colonial history came to an end, a new era was about to open for the 43-year-old vessel.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, signalled to his host, the Prince of Wales, that the Government was giving active consideration to a plan to raise £50 million from private industry for a refit. The Prince, who passionately believed that the yacht should be saved, was delighted not just by the attitude of the Prime Minister but by the fact that he was being kept informed.

John Major had not consulted the Prince over the Tory plan to scrap the yacht and spend £60 million of taxpayers' money on a replacement. The plan, which was unveiled in January by Michael Portillo, the then Defence Secretary, was opposed by the Labour Party.

The issue rapidly descended into a party political row, which embarrassed Buckingham Palace, as the Tories sought to portray Labour as anti-monarchy. However, opinion polls confirmed Mr Blair's instinct was right as they showed overwhelming hostility to a taxpayer funded replacement.

The Prince, who has long believed that the solution was a privately funded refit, made his views clear to the Prime Minister on board the yacht as the celebrations for the historic handover continued in Hong Kong.

It was not the first time he had discussed the subject. The previous week the Prince, whose relations with Mr Blair are described as "warm", held 90 minutes of talks with him.

Mr Blair was anxious for a solution as the planned date for decommissioning next month loomed closer. But Downing Street had been

frustrated in its negotiations with Buckingham Palace by the reluctance of Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, to countenance any option other than the one put forward by the previous government.

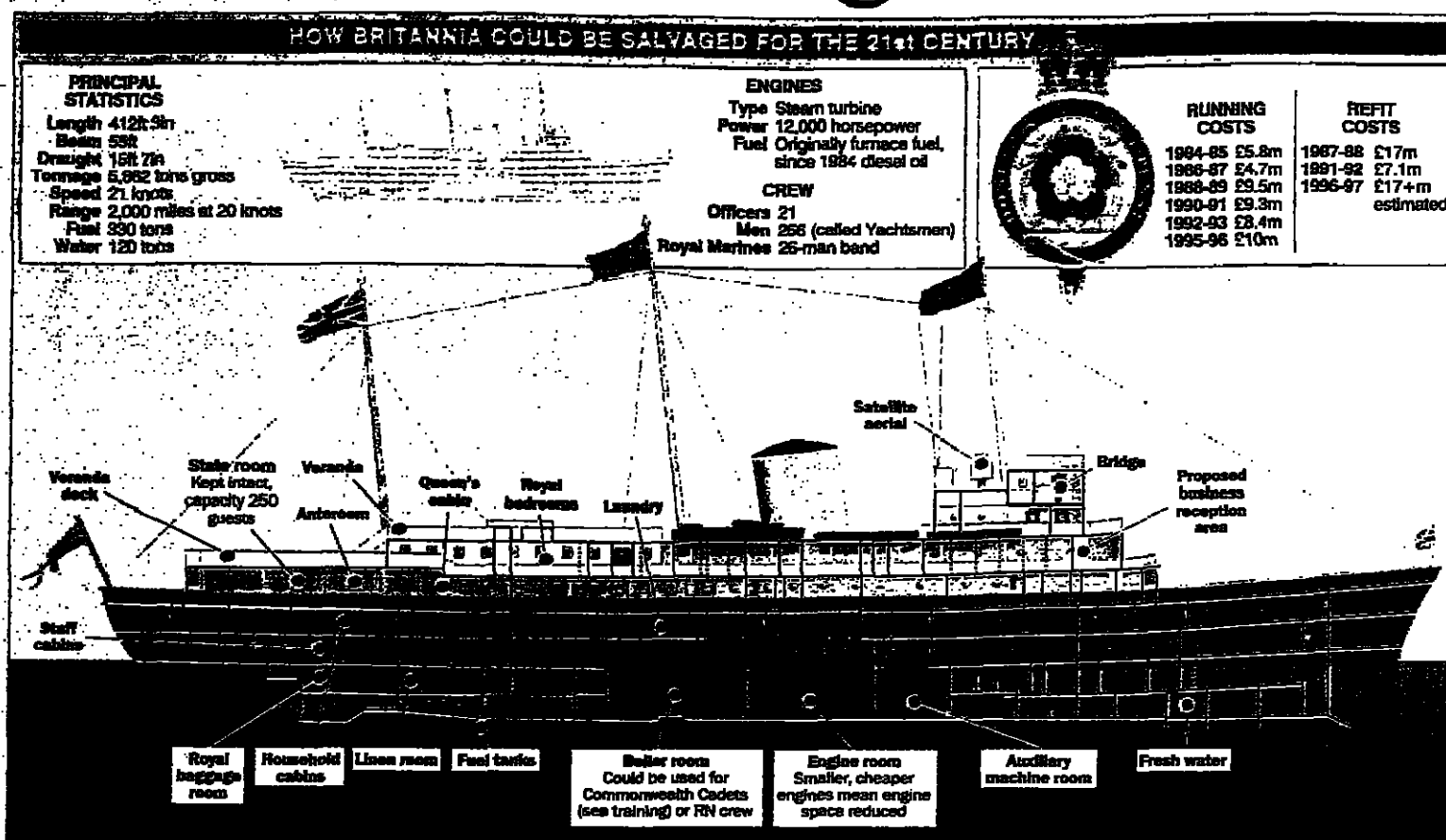
Sir Robert was not necessarily expressing the view of the Queen, who has always maintained a flexible outlook as to how a new royal yacht should be financed. The Duke of Edinburgh was at one with the Prince of Wales that the yacht should be used more aggressively on trade missions as a symbol of the best of British history and tradition.

A key figure in the brokering of a solution was Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio. Mr Mandelson was always determined that *Britannia* would be saved. Mr Mandelson, who introduced Mr Blair to the Prince of Wales in 1990, meets him from time to time and the subject has been discussed. He would have reported back to the Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson is a close friend of Tom Shebabe, who runs the Prince's Trust, and is one of the Prince's most trusted aides. The pair collaborated 20 years ago on a pamphlet, *Youth Unemployment - Causes and Cures*, when they worked together at the British Youth Council. He has dined occasionally with Camilla Parker Bowles.

But the reception on the Royal Yacht *Britannia* also secured another important ally for the Prince of Wales. Robin Cook, as Foreign Secretary, who enjoys the trappings of one of the highest offices in the land, also became convinced that the vessel was an asset for British diplomacy.

He dined with the Prince of Wales two weeks ago and the Prince has also seen Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, twice in the last month. The result of the high level talks has secured for him the very outcome he did not dream was possible 100 days ago.



Last post for captain's brass trumpet

The Royal Yacht needs a radical refit to sail into the 21st century, reports Emma Wilkins

down a tube to him. After a refit, he will be able to control everything with a joystick from the bridge. "The new equipment will require fewer mechanics and the consequent reduction in the crew by some 50 to 80 from 256 yachtsmen will be a major financial saving and will create space below decks. Modern conference facilities, including video links, film screens and exhibition centres, could be built in the new space.

It is unlikely that the stateroom, which can receive 250 guests, will be altered. The fittings were designed in 1953 by Sir Hugh Casson, then president of the Royal Academy, after the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh rejected initial proposals from a firm of interior designers as "too fussy". Many of the brass wall fittings, paintings, mirrors and other ornaments were salvaged from *Victoria & Albert III*, George VI's old yacht.

During the last refit in 1987, *Britannia's* teak decks were replaced,

asbestos insulation was removed and preservation work carried out on the hull. The work, which took a year, cost £17 million.

Now most of the yacht's mechanical equipment, from internal life to the hoists which raise and lower the royal barge, need replacing. "She is completely out of date," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, which is responsible for the yacht. "Her current equipment is very high-maintenance in terms of manpower and time. A lot of work is involved in simply keeping her going because the mechanisms in the engines are so old. It's like having a classic car - you have got to spend a lot of time and money just keeping her in service."

The yacht needs to be rewired and the thin hull needs to be replated. Unlike modern vessels, which have welded hulls, *Britannia* is riveted, according to Mr Field. He added: "*Britannia* has a slightly strange

voltage and all the wiring is a bit 'iffy'. The great fear is fire."

Architects and designers remained unconvinced by the proposal to refit the yacht. "I think it is a missed opportunity," said Geoffrey Jarvis, the architect behind the Clyde Heritage Trust's rival proposals for *Britannia*. Mr Jarvis, whose team wants to open the yacht as a museum in dry dock in Glasgow, said that he was horrified that she could be used for "junks" by business people.

"The proposal that *Britannia* should be used as a timeshare investment for corporate international jet-set is not an appropriate or dignified use for the Royal Yacht," he said. "I predict that she will be used for junketing by the finance industry."

One question which remains unresolved is how members of the Royal Family will pay for their use of *Britannia*. With running costs estimated at £10 million a year, the Queen would be faced with a bill of £500,000 for her annual two-week cruise of the Western Isles, which begins later this week.

The Duke sails into Cowes retirement

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Duke of Edinburgh may have been a little hasty in deciding to give up competitive sailing. As the yachting world at Cowes yesterday celebrated the Government's decision to save the Royal Yacht *Britannia* from the scrap heap, it emerged that the Duke had decided to abandon the helm because he believed it appropriate to be decommissioned at the same time as *Britannia*.

When the Duke visited Cowes last week for an anniversary of the Flying XV class in which he once competed, he explained his reasons for quitting to John Bowker, the chairman of the Isle of Wight Council. "I asked him, 'Are you sailing this year?' He said, 'I'm not.' There was a hint of sadness in his voice. He said, '*Britannia* is being decommissioned and I think it is perhaps time that I was decommissioned as well.'"

"I asked him if he would reconsider, because a lot of people would be upset. He said, 'You have to quit while you are ahead. Mr Bowker, I think he should change his mind. He has every reason to do so now.'"

There was no immediate evidence that the Duke's sailing career might be revived along with that of the Royal Yacht. Once again the Duke was not sailing yesterday.

Maldwin Drummond, the chairman of the Royal Yacht Consortium, the umbrella group that campaigned for a replacement, said he understood that the refit would reduce the crew substantially. There would also be 50 cadets, to be known as Commonwealth or Queen's cadets, on the yacht at any one time. They would be trained in catering or scientific research. "I believe there will be a queue of companies wanting to hire her," Mr Drummond, a former Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, said.

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The reign that changed the world

Today, in this
centenary year of
Queen Victoria's
diamond jubilee,
Alan Hamilton
begins a series
celebrating an
era unmatched in
its dynamism

QUEEN VICTORIA reigned far too long for historical convenience. The world she left on her death in 1901, after 64 years on the throne, was a vastly different place to that she inherited on her accession as an 18-year-old in the distant past of 1837.

We talk glibly of the Victorian age as though it were a single entity, and we imagine it as an endless summer afternoon of prosperity, stability and energy. In truth there were at least three Victorian ages: an age of revolution, an age of wealth and an age of empire.

Victoria came to the throne only five years after the passage of the first Reform Bill, the break in the stranglehold of political power by the aristocracy. Her early years saw the repeal of the Corn Laws making way for unbridled free trade, and the publication of the Communist Mani-

festos. Her second age was ushered in by the overpowering Germanic energy and earnestness of Prince Albert, who created the Great Exhibition of 1851 and raised the curtain on a long period of burgeoning industry, invention and wealth. As that boom was bursting, Disraeli created his Queen Empress of India, signalling the third age in which a quarter of the map of the world became coloured red.

During Victoria's reign, the population almost exactly doubled to 37 million. Britain, strong and confident, became the world's greatest industrial power. Yet by the end of the century the country had lost that dominance to a United States hugely

revitalised after its Civil War, and to an emergent Germany made muscular by unification. In this long and immensely varied reign, however, there are still common strands. Lord Briggs, the historian Asa Briggs, who is our most eminent living chronicler of the period, says: "Over the whole reign there is a unity which lies in the Victorians' recognition of the importance of change. One of the favourite phrases of the time was 'age of transition'. There was a great consciousness of the times they were living in. They loved to compare their times with others times, and on the whole they felt they were living in a wonderful century because there was

so much new, from the railway engine to the safety match."

A country which, in the early years of the reign had moved towards the zenith of its industrial and political power, ended the century in a cloud of self-doubt. Lord Briggs says: "There were doubts about the permanence of imperial power, the economy, the family, religion, education. By the time of Victoria's death her subjects had, in many ways, lost their firm confidence in progress."

H.G. Wells thought the 19th century a hasty trial experiment, full of waste. But if the achievements of the age were more technical and material than philosophical, they were still enormous. Its legacy of bold engineering is still in daily use. We are alive and well thanks to huge strides in public health. We draw pleasure from

the self-confidence of its civic architecture, now back in fashion after a period of scorn. We are universally educated. And we still climb Blackpool Tower.

At her diamond jubilee celebrations in London, the Queen Empress was a wheelchair-bound old lady of 78, with barely four years of life left. Born in the age of the stagecoach, she died in the age of the motor car. And no monarch ever saw so much happen in between.

Leading article, page 19

TOMORROW

Victorian monarchy — and the first European sovereign



1 Balmoral Castle
Victoria and Albert fell in love with the Highlands, and virtually created the Scottish tourist industry, as crowds flocked to glimpse their Queen. After Albert's death Victoria found solace at Balmoral in the company of her "particular gillie", John Brown.



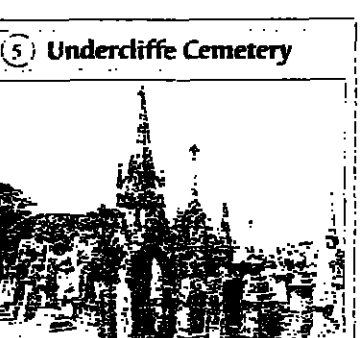
2 Gladstone
Victoria's least favourite Prime Minister despite four terms of office. Gladstone was the archetypal Victorian. The son of a wealthy corn merchant, he spent much of his childhood and later years at a house still resplendent of the upstairs-downstairs world of self-made men.



3 Forth Bridge
The boldest and best known expression of the Victorians' boundless engineering confidence. The Forth Bridge is still in daily use after 107 years. Its 55,000-tonne structure signalled the end of the Victorian age of iron and the dawn of the new 20th century age of steel.



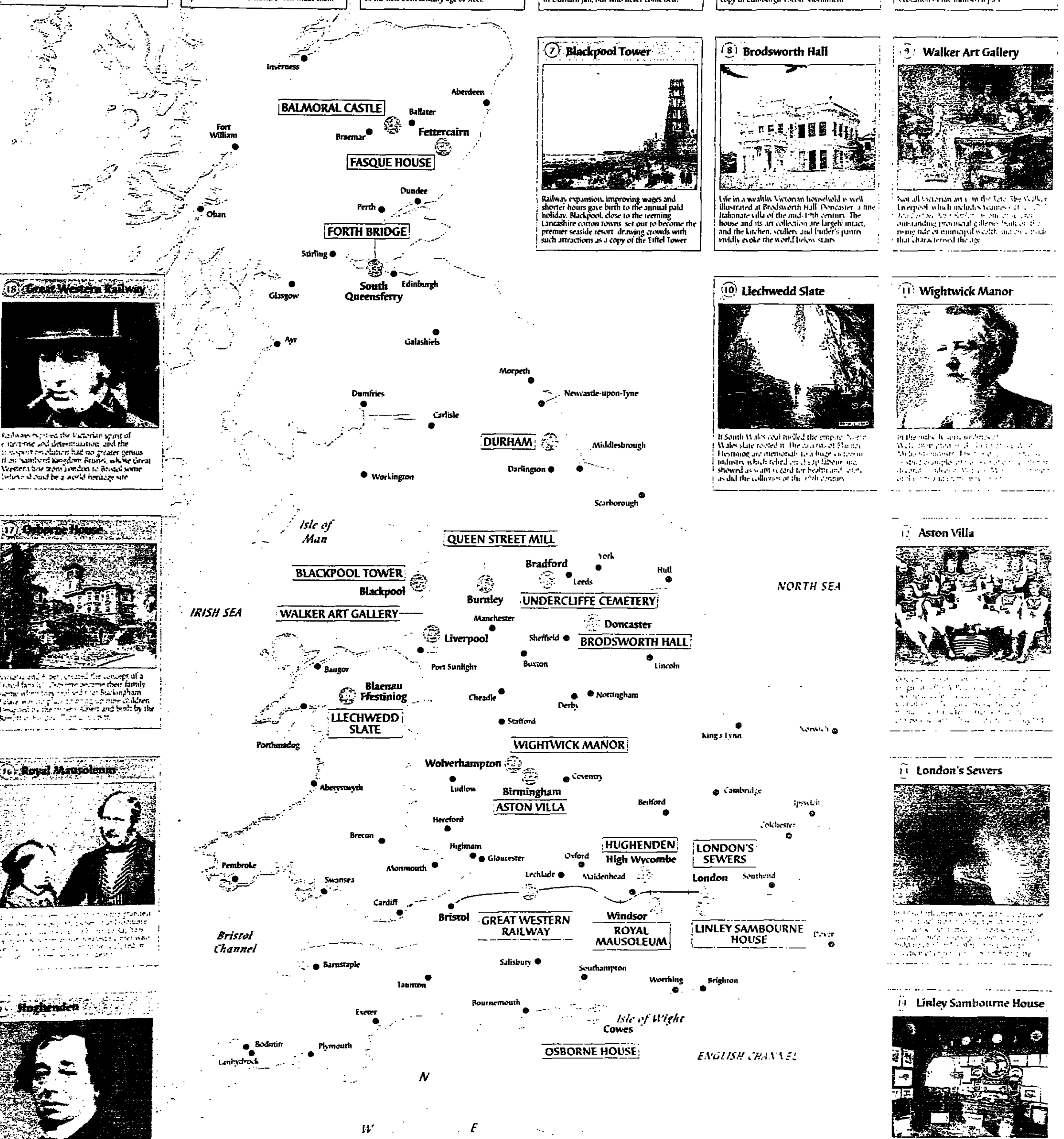
4 Durham
Jack the Ripper was the most celebrated murderer, but who now remembers Mary Ann Condon, serial killer who terrorised the North East, was charged with poisoning three husbands and at least 12 children, was hanged in Durham jail, but who never confessed?



5 Undercliffe Cemetery
Victorians wished to depart the world in the style in which they had lived in it. Undercliffe in Bradford displays astounding memorials and graves of the city's wool barons, who went to paradise by way of Greek temples and even a copy of Edinburgh's Scott Monument.



6 Queen Street Mill
King Cotton was the first major industry to experience mass mechanisation employing thousands in conditions of noise, danger, low wages and long hours. This preserved mill in Burnley with its sea of looms is a powerful evocation of the industrial past.



18 Great Western Railway
Railways shaped the Victorian spirit of enterprise and determination, and the transport revolution had no greater genius than Isambard Kingdom Brunel, whose Great Western line from London to Bristol was the first to be a world heritage site.



17 Osborne House
Victoria and Albert created the concept of a royal family. Osborne became their family home when they moved from Buckingham Palace in 1870. The house was built by the architect James Stirling and built by the architect James Stirling.



16 Royal Mausoleum
The Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore was built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It was the first of a series of mausoleums built for the royal family. The mausoleum was built by the architect James Stirling and built by the architect James Stirling.



15 High Wycombe
The High Wycombe area was a major centre of the textile industry during the Victorian era. It was home to many of the textile manufacturers who made the country a major power in the textile industry. The area was also home to many of the textile manufacturers who made the country a major power in the textile industry.

Breeders to go native in search for a busier bee

BRITISH bee breeders are seeking to restore the racial purity of the native honey bee after more than a century of "mongrelisation" caused by imports of foreign strains. Those behind the ambitious project believe years of cross-breeding have created bad-tempered, sting-happy bees that are becoming less productive because they are ill-adapted to Britain's unpredictable climate.

This year the cool and rainy summer has kept most bees in their hives when they should have been out foraging for nectar, and honey output is forecast to be no more than about half what would be expected in a good season.

Devotees of the native dark European honey bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, also known as the British black, say it is more docile to handle and performs much better in bad weather than the hybrids of foreign origin which most beekeepers now stock. Tom Robinson, of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association, says the native bee may also be better equipped to cope with the deadly varroa mite which reached Britain from the Continent five years

The hunt is on to recruit more British workers as honey stocks fall, Michael Hornsby reports

ago and has wiped out up to 70 per cent of hives in some southern counties of England. "We are finding that some of the native bees groom each other and remove the mite and kill it," Mr Robinson said. "We are trying to locate and identify the main colonies of surviving pure-bred natives with the aim of selecting and breeding from them."

Until about the middle of the last century the dark European honey bee was the only kind found in Britain. It had adapted to local conditions after moving north from the Mediterranean at the end of the last Ice Age.

Imports of foreign bees began in 1850 and increased hugely after the First World

War to restock hives devastated by Isle of Wight disease, an infection of the respiratory tract.

Although the vast majority of bees reared by Britain's estimated 35,000 beekeepers are now mongrels, colonies of native or near-native bees still exist in Ireland and, the association believes, in isolated areas of northern England and Wales. "We are inviting beekeepers to send us specimens from these colonies," Mr Robinson said. "The bees will then be passed on to biologists at the University of York for morphometric measurement."

The technique of morphometry involves detailed measurement of bodily features such as tongue and abdominal hair length and the vein pattern in the wings. Scientists know exactly what to look for because of the existence in museums of specimens of "uncontaminated" pre-1850 British bees, including one found during excavation of a 10th-century Viking settlement in York.

Alan Johnson, national chairman of the British Beekeepers Association, thinks the idea of restoring the native bee is a good one in theory, but

doubts its practicability. "I fear man's interference has already gone too far to be reversed," he said. "To have any impact the project would require huge co-operation between beekeepers, many of whom swear by cross-breeding. Put ten beekeepers in a room and you get ten different viewpoints."

Queen bees mate on the

wing with any drones that happen to be in the vicinity, so even if beekeepers restocked with pure-bred natives they would find it difficult to prevent interbreeding with other strains of bees, except in remote areas miles from other hives.

Artificial insemination is possible, but is a difficult technique requiring equip-

ment costing more than £1,000 and beyond the means and capabilities of all but a handful and highly dedicated beekeepers.

Other techniques include "time isolation" in which the queen and chosen drones are released for mating at a time of day when other drones do not normally fly. But for this to be effective all or most of the

beekeepers in an area would have to agree to use such methods. Britain may have to accept that its bees are as irrevocably racially mixed as its people.

This week has been declared National Varroa Week, so that all beekeepers will check their hives simultaneously to stop the disease spreading further.



The native British black: more docile to handle, performs better in bad weather, and even grooms its friends

Talking about sex can make Britain healthier

By IAN MURRAY

THE Government wants us all to talk openly about sex this week in order to improve the health of the nation.

Prudery, it seems, lies behind Britain having the highest teenage pregnancy rate in western Europe, abortions rising for the first time in five years and the number of sexually transmitted diseases increasing by 6 per cent a year.

Launching the first sexual awareness week, the Health Education Authority has joined the Family Planning Association in calling for more informative discussion and less embarrassed giggling.

According to Anne Weyman, the association's chief executive: "Sex is a normal, enjoyable part of everyday life and should be treated as such. Countries with more open attitudes towards sex have lower rates of unplanned pregnancy and studies show that young people are less likely to have early sex if there is good communication about the subject at home. We are emphasising that sex is fun and talking is the key to a healthy sex life."

Everyone from 16 to 70 is being urged to talk about sex with wives, lovers, friends and family at least once a day. Although men are supposed to think about sex every nine minutes and women at least daily, most Britons do not take it seriously. "If sex is treated as a joke, then young people will not realise that it can have serious consequences," Michelle Misgala, of the association, said. "Some young people just don't equate sex with getting pregnant."

Tarantula's cousin found in Suffolk nature reserve

By Jane Mawson



The purse-web spider, which has enormous fangs

AN INVESTIGATION into the effects of global warming on a Suffolk nature reserve has uncovered a colony of spiders directly related to the deadly tarantula.

The purse-web spider, *Anyus affinis*, is Britain's closest relative to the tropical tarantula. The purse-web, named after the shape it spins, has been discovered at the Minsmere nature reserve. Colonies of the spider, which is about the size of a 50p piece, have been found on the South Coast and on Hampstead Common in north London, but it has never been sighted

so far north. Like the tarantula, the purse-web has four lungs and six eyes, but its most impressive feature is its fangs, which account for a tenth of its length.

Deadly to its prey, the spider is harmless to humans. It lives inside a tube-shaped burrow six inches under the ground. A vertical tube leads to a sealed horizontal silken tube on top of the ground. When insects walk across this, the spider will dash to slit the silk with its fangs and grab its prey from underneath, injecting it with poison. The purse-web can kill insects twice as large as itself, such as grasshoppers. A male and female live inside each

tunnel. The male will die within a year but the female may live seven times as long. A mate will express his interest by finding a widow spider and drumming a special rhythm on the tube to ensure that she does not think he is the next dinner course.

Richard Wilson, a volunteer with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, recovered two male purse-webs from traps left out to assess the threat to Britain's wildlife of global warming. "It is an important discovery," Matthew Shardlow, the RSPB's invertebrate ecologist expert, said. "It adds conservation value to the site. They are charismatic little beasts." The purse-

web spider will come under threat if its habitat becomes wetter due to global warming. Although a mobile species, the spider is slow at colonisation and can travel only about ten metres a year. "If its habitat becomes wet the spider may not be able to migrate quickly enough. It is very fussy about where it chooses to live," Mr Shardlow said.

A rare species of wasp was discovered at the Minsmere site last summer. The *Diodontus insidiosus* solitary wasp has been found at only 20 sites internationally and is featured in the Red Data Book for endangered species.

Mind and Matter, page 13

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Casino boomtime brings mixed blessings to Delta

OUT of the Mississippi Delta's desolate miles of cotton fields, scorched by the 100F (38C) heat, the neon billboards rear up: "Casino Strip! Win More, More Often!" The most insistent, flashing up every mile like a child delighted with a rude joke, declares "Come to Bally's — the looser slots of all!"

This is Tunica, for years the poorest county in America. In the 1960s, President Kennedy called it a national disgrace. Radical Democrat Jesse Jackson later dubbed it the Ethiopia of the US. Several years ago, the town again made national headlines when it emerged that residents of its leaking tin shacks drew their drinking water from the "Sugar Ditch" sewage outflow.

But since Mississippi's narrow vote in 1990 to legalise gambling in the counties bordering the river, Tunica has shocked the US gambling world by becoming the third biggest resort after Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Revenues of its nine casinos are expected to reach \$875 million (£533 million) this year. However, while gambling has brought jobs, it is now accused of feeding on those who can least afford to

America's poorest county is now a huge gambling centre, reports Bronwen Maddox from Tunica, Mississippi



pay. A new presidential gaming commission will ask whether a gambling licence is the answer to poverty that the industry claims.

"For a country girl like me, when I first went up there, and saw all those halls, full of those slots going 'ding, ding', I tell you, my mouth just dropped open," says Lina Rodgers, a Tunica town alderman and a teller at the Planters Bank.

Spread over ten miles of the featureless flood plain, 14 miles from the nearest town, the casinos are the size of airport terminals. Each has its own hotel and restaurants so that "players" checking in on Friday need not stir until Sunday evening; the halls are open round the clock, as are their \$5 "all you can eat" buffets, featuring cloying dishes like pork with pineapple in barbecue sauce. Fitzgeralds, offering "Southern hospitality in a magical Irish castle", comes with green tufted, leather chairs and 11,000 slot machines and video games. Sam's Town boasts two floors of games, each a third of a mile long, and live telecasts of "Leather and Lace" women's boxing.

Despite the Winners' Hall of Fame at each entrance ("Ohio Man wins \$203,899 playing Caribbean Stud!"), most lose a lot. Anne, from Fort Smith,

Arkansas, taking a breather at the bar after losing \$200 on slot machines, but still playing absent-mindedly at the electronic poker embedded in the counter, said she and her husband "lost \$2,300 the last time we came. I was just sick".

Some on the jostling floor at Sam's Town on Friday night said they were coming for a birthday or a "special treat". But many said they had come because they had just been given their July wages; the queue at the special counter to cash paychecks was 100 deep. A third were elderly; rows of Zimmer frames were parked behind the padded red stools, blocking the path of the dozens of wheelchairs.

Tunica County officials aggressively shun off criticism that gambling is sucking

money away from the poorest, arguing that the benefits are indisputable. The number of families on welfare in the county has more than halved. According to Linelle Hudspeth, of the Child Support Agency, money collected each month from absent fathers has more than doubled. The drab Main Street now supports a florist and beauty parlour and the local newspaper has "help wanted" advertisements for the first time in its history.

But Bobby Williams, mayor and proprietor of the town furniture shop, says too little trickles down to the town from the poker tables, while some local people spend more than they can afford. "Their credit is worse — I have noticed that," he says.

Sister Gus of the Catholic Social Services charity, who says she has also spent a pleasant evening at the gaming tables, is also worried that many of the worst shacks have been pulled down simply to improve the county's appearance, increasing overcrowd-

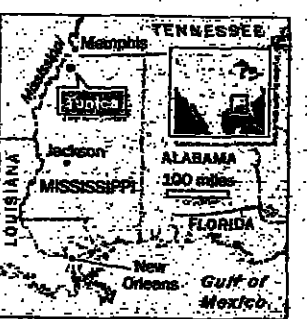
ing in the rusting mobile homes which dot the fields. Meanwhile, teachers complain that pupils are lured into leaving school even earlier to take dead-end jobs in the unrealistic hope that one day they will be a croupier.

Most seriously, according to Webster Franklin, a county marketing official who is a firm advocate of the casinos, the new prosperity has not yet improved the schools, which remain so terrible that few people will move into the county. This year, after the schools failed to meet minimum academic standards for seven years out of eight, the state government took control.

Next year the number of hotel rooms at the Tunica casinos will nearly double to 6,200, including a 31-storey hotel. An airport is planned and two golf courses. But the rewards will have to spread much deeper in the community before the casinos are immune to the charge that they are giving wages to the poor — and taking the money back again.



The coming of gaming joints to Mississippi's deprived Tunica County brought jobs and dollars for many on welfare but much of the paycheck goes to the croupiers



Republicans lose plot over China

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS are worried that the menace raised by the Senate probe into campaign fundraising is turning into a red herring.

The hearings have been suspended during August, but the first four weeks failed to live up to the opening statement by the Republican chairman, Fred Thompson, that he would "prove the existence of a Chinese plan to subvert our election process".

Senator Thompson said that he had concluded, using classified FBI evidence, that the Chinese plans were aimed at Congress, but there were suggestions that they also tried to influence the presidential race.

Yesterday Mr Thompson acknowledged that the hearings could build only a circumstantial case against China. He put the blame on key players who had refused to testify or had fled the country, and stood by his belief that Beijing had such a plan. The hearings have heard that people wrote cheques to the Democratic National Committee on behalf of foreigners and that at least \$900,000 (£560,000) was transferred to the US via the Bank of China by a tycoon in Macau to Charlie Trie, an alleged "hustler" who donated heavily to the committee. But the FBI agent who followed

the money-laundering trail said he could not prove a Chinese government connection, although the tycoon serves on a commission that advises Beijing and the Chinese Communist Party about economic policy.

Mr Trie is now resident in Beijing and unavailable to give evidence. The other big Democratic fundraiser with ties to China, John Huang, initially said he would testify only if given immunity from prosecution. Since then, he has dropped out of sight.

Building a circumstantial case had been made necessary by the absence of Mr Trie and Mr Huang, plus the lack of co-operation from the Chinese Government, Mr Thompson said.

Mr Thompson is partly hampered by being unable to hold open hearings on the secret interception of radio messages to and from the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

With no hard evidence on the public record, a suspicion is emerging that money allegedly spent by China was not used for meddling in the election. Rather, it could have been largely for legal lobbying and, even more embarrassing, for flying members of Congress to China on junkets with all expenses paid.

'Son of Sam' murderer says he deserves to die

New York: Twenty years after he terrorised New York, murdering six people and wounding 11, the serial killer David Berkowitz has apologised for his crimes, saying he "deserves to die" (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Berkowitz, who described himself as the "Son of Sam" in a note left at the scene of his last murder, is serving six consecutive life sentences.

His murders were committed, he said, under orders from a dog belonging to his neighbour, one Sam Carr, the man from whom he took his bizarre sobriquet. Berkowitz killed courting couples with a .44-calibre rifle.

The apology was published yesterday by the *Daily News*, a mass circulation New York tabloid. Berkowitz says in a letter to the paper: "I have nothing but deep regret and sorrow for all that has happened and for all the bad things I have done. If I could go back in time to change things and stop them, I would. However, I cannot go back and undo the damage."

Berkowitz, who worked as a postman at the time of his rampage, is now a born-again Christian. He believes that Christ has chosen to forgive him, but says: "I truly deserve punishment and death."



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Prime Health

Landslide survivor tells how he lost his wife to a rush of mud and water

BY RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Mr Diver said he survived by pressing his nose against a concrete slab about two inches above him to breathe as near-

above his nose and
against the slab and

an inch or two

Soft of tunnels in an attempt to reach the bedrooms and kitchens of the collapsed ski lodges, but hopes of finding anyone

Stuart Diver was pulled from the rubble of a ski chalet at the Thredbo ski resort after 60 hours and said to rescuers "That sky's fantastic". Doctors said that his chance of survival had been a million to one.

Tearful father celebrates 'miracle'

By Our Foreign Staff

He spoke to his son while he was still trapped underground. "I spoke to him on

Bob Dunn, a doctor at the scene, said last night: "We are

"He's talked to a lot of people about his experiences. We need to give him a great deal more time to regain his strength, so I haven't asked him any questions about what happened down there."

There are also growing fears of a second landslide after it emerged that part of the debris had slipped more than a foot over the past 36 hours.

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THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND

To coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, *The Times* invites you to test your wits with our Challenge of the Mind competition. Every day for two weeks we will be setting a range of puzzles to get

you thinking. And we have £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. For further details of the Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call 0171-703 2828.

£500 SCRABBLE® PROBLEM by Paul Lamford*

Today's mind teaser is based on the game of Scrabble® which was invented in 1949. About 50 per cent of households in Britain and the US have a set and versions exist in some 31 languages. The puzzle does not require you to have a large vocabulary and the best play is a common, everyday word.

The diagram shows the position on your first turn of a game of Scrabble®. Your opponent has just played the word MONEY and you sort your letters and see you can make the word LAUNDER, scoring a bonus of 50 points for using all your letters. However, in Scrabble® the word has to fit on the board, making legal words in the process. For exam-

ple, you could not place it going across, above the EY of MONEY because LE is not allowed in English Scrabble®. What is your highest scoring play?

- a) To find a position for LAUNDER adjoining MONEY
- b) To make an eight-letter word which uses one of the letters from MONEY.
- c) To use all seven of the letters of LAUNDER to make a different seven-letter word.

Call our Scrabble® hotline with your answer: a, b, or c, before midnight tonight. The winner will receive £500 and 20 rounds-up will each receive a Scrabble® Prestige set, donated by Spear's Games. Winners will be chosen at random

from all correct entries received and the answer will be published on Wednesday. Normal TNL

competition rules apply. Call 0891 102 724 (ex-UK +44 990 200 618) before midnight, tonight.

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TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. What numbers are missing from these sequences?

(A) 3, 5, 11, 29, ?

(B) 2, -10, 26, 58, ?

Q2. Can you make three six-letter words with these letters?

A, C, G, I, N, R

Q3. What number is missing from this drawing?

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Call 0891 102 725 (ex UK +44 990 200 618).

All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa Information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

*Paul Lamford is a former editor of *Games and Puzzles* magazine and is currently commissioning editor of chess and bridge for Batsford Books

THE MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

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Suicide note spoke of spilling US blood

BY TUNUK VARADAKIAN IN NEW YORK

THE alleged suicide bombers arrested here last week had planned to strike the New York subway during the evening rush hour on Friday, police sources have revealed.

Had they succeeded, officials say, the result would have been a blood-bath. According to James Kallstrom, the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's New York office, the "mail-bombs" would have killed anyone within a 25ft radius of the explosion.

It has emerged, also, that Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, 23, one of the men detained, had attempted to cross illegally into the United States from Canada on three occasions since June 1996. He was caught twice and sent back, but on the third occasion he applied for political asylum and was allowed temporary entry.

According to the New York police, Mezer and Lafi Khalil, 22, the other accused, had planned to strap their home-made arsenal to their bodies and detonate themselves at the Atlantic Avenue station, a busy intersection through which thousands pass at peak hours.

A rambling suicide note penned by Mr Abu Mezer was found at the apartment where the men were arrested early on Thursday. In it, he speaks of "spilling American blood", and describes "Americans and Jews" as "enemies of Palestine".

Police also found reams of anti-Israeli literature and a portrait of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric serving life for plotting to bomb a number of New York landmarks.

Authorities are now investigating whether the men, said to belong to Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, were acting alone or taking orders from outside America. A city official said: "The question is: are these freelance yokes inspired by the rhetoric of some cleric, or the emotion of what went on in Jerusalem, or is this an operation directed from somewhere else?"

Police are sifting through the records of thousands of calls made from payphones in the locality in an attempt to trace the people with whom the two spoke.

Arafat attacks 'war' of sanctions

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian Authority's President, has accused Israel of declaring war on the Palestinian people over its sanctions in retaliation for last week's Jerusalem bombing.

Mr Arafat said that the Israeli crackdown on the territories could wreck what was left of the peace process. He also blamed Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, for increasing tensions.

His criticism came as Israeli security forces searched buses and patrolled public places fearing more attacks. Police have received hundreds of phone calls from Israelis reporting suspicious objects.

The Israeli Government announced it would continue searches, while at the same time maintaining a series of sanctions against the Palestinians. Mr Arafat said the measures adopted by the Israeli Cabinet in the wake of the attack were unwarranted, since the bombers did not come from areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

The sanctions have included a closure of the territories' borders, jamming of Palestinian airwaves and halting the transfer of tax revenue. Mr Arafat's criticism came after a meeting in Alexandria with President Mubarak.

In response, Mr Netanyahu said he was not attempting to punish all Palestinians, but

stressed there was no way the peace process could move forward unless Mr Arafat made war on terrorism.

Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, told the Cabinet that Mr Arafat had still not attempted to smash the infrastructure of Islamic extremists in the territories.

DNA testing of the remains of the terrorists has failed to uncover the identities of the two men. An attempted match with blood samples taken from one family in the West Bank town of Hebron showed there was no connection with two members of Hamas missing for the past 15 months.

Israeli security officials believe that Hamas activists were behind the attack in Jerusalem's central market which killed 15 people, including the terrorists.

It is believed that the explosives came from a bomb factory in Beit Sahur, near Bethlehem, uncovered by the Palestinian police two weeks ago. At the time there were reports that two attached cases, believed to be packed with explosives, had gone missing.

The two Hamas officials, Mohammed Deif and Mohi Sharif, who are also wanted in connection with suicide bombings on buses last year, are believed to be hiding in the Gaza Strip. But Mohammed Dahlan, the Preventive Security chief in the Gaza Strip,



A Palestinian woman leads a chant during a march by children yesterday in protest at the closure of the West Bank by Israel in retaliation for last week's Jerusalem bombing. Thousands of Israeli security forces have been deployed in the main towns and are searching vehicles

said yesterday that Israel could not expect any co-operation so long as the closure of the territories remains.

He added that, if Israel attempted to carry out its threat to enter areas under Palestinian control, it could expect a strong response. Mr Dahlan said the Palestinians had allowed Israeli troops to withdraw peacefully from these areas but violence would surely erupt if the soldiers returned.

"The Palestinian people parted from the occupying forces with flowers and olive branches, but it will not receive them that way if the Israeli Defence Force comes back into the territories," he said.

Washington: Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, yesterday condemned Mr Arafat for not

doing enough to crack down on terrorists (Ian Brodie writes).

Mr Gingrich said he supported Israeli military raids into Palestinian territory and called for America to adopt a tougher anti-terrorist strategy. Mr Arafat had lost all credibility in the United States Congress as a leader, Mr Gingrich told *For News Sunday*. He claimed that President Clinton's Administration was very concerned about a growing sense that the Palestinian Authority was not doing its job.

"Arafat has squandered what was a great opportunity to build genuine peace in the region, and now the question is where do we go from here," Mr Gingrich said.

He added that Israel had the right to take whatever measures it saw fit to protect its citizens from such atrocities

as last week's bombing. If those steps included raids into Palestinian territory and arresting some Palestinian Authority leaders who had engaged in terrorist acts, they should be taken.

He said there was clear evidence that Mr Arafat and his colleagues had not only failed to stop terrorism but had people in their organisation helping terrorists. The boldness of Hamas in its latest statements indicated that the United States needed to be prepared to take a new and tougher anti-terrorist strategy.

Resumption of security collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians will be a priority for Dennis Ross, President Clinton's Middle East mediator, who flies to Israel later this week.

Leading article, page 19

Iran hopes new leader will rescue it from isolation

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MUHAMMAD KHATAMI, the moderate cleric who won a surprise landslide victory on a platform of social and economic change, was yesterday confirmed as Iran's fifth President since the Islamic revolution.

Iranian women and the country's disaffected youth who swept him to power are demanding more freedom, while the urban poor are relying on the new President to improve their lot. Both in Iran and abroad it is hoped he will end the country's isolation

by steering the country on a more moderate path. Mr Khatami, dubbed "Ayatollah Gorbachev" by some diplomats in Tehran, announced yesterday that the Islamic republic wanted secure and friendly relations with all countries but, in a veiled reference to the United States, said the expansionist policies of big powers were the main obstacle to world peace.

However, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who confirmed Mr Khatami in office yesterday, is expected to do his best to

frustrate his reforms and resist any significant overtures to the West, in particular America.

However, Mr Khatami, 54, who speaks fluent Arabic, German and English, will have the support of the pragmatic, outgoing President Rafsanjani. Mr Rafsanjani's last act after eight years in office was an attempt at the weekend to persuade European countries to send their ambassadors back to Iran in time to witness the swearing in of the new President.



Muhammad Khatami, right, at yesterday's ceremony

Pakistan pupils sent to aid Taleban

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

MAROOF AHMED, 13, a student at Jamia Istania, a madrasa (religious school) in Karachi (cliffed district), has been missing for the past few weeks. When his father, Farooq Ahmed, contacted the school administration, he was told his son had gone to Afghanistan to fight.

Young Ahmed is among the thousands of Pakistani students sent to fight a war in Afghanistan on behalf of the Pakistani-backed Taleban. These young Islamic warriors, the majority of whom are still in their teens, have been lured into joining the war in the name of Islam.

The recruitment of Pakistani children has increased since Taleban was routed in northern Afghanistan. More than 1,500 students have been recruited from various madrasas in Karachi during the past few months. Thousands of others from the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan have joined Taleban fighters. Many are likely to be killed in

battle. Those who return join extremist Islamic groups.

Hundreds of people have perished in fighting inside Pakistan between extremist Sunni and Shia Muslim organisations since January. Many of the militants are Afghan war veterans. The list of most wanted terrorists involved in sectarian killings includes members of Harakat-ul-Ansar and other groups active in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

The madrasas, which saw a significant growth in the 1980s with the help of massive funding from Arab countries, are used as recruiting centres for Afghanistan.

Most of the students enrolled in the thousands of such schools across Pakistan come from poor peasant families who cannot afford to feed and educate their children. The schools give them free food and lodging, but control their lives. Many of the schools are controlled by

extremist Sunni Muslim organisations like Sipah-Sahaba, which have close links with Taleban.

In the majority of cases, Pakistani students are being sent to the war zone without the knowledge of their parents. The issue came out into the open last week when Farooq Ahmed went to the High Court seeking the return of his son.

The problem has become much more serious as successive Pakistani governments have conveniently closed their eyes to the activities of religious organisations. The main reason for their inaction is that Pakistan has itself been backing Taleban and other Islamic forces waging a holy war in other areas.

Hossein Kot, Afghanistan's Taleban militia has edged its front lines forward in battles against rival ex-government forces near this town 12 miles north of Kabul. It was the first change in more than a week of deadlock. (AFP)

Blame for ANC deaths 'with army and police'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN RICHMOND

PRESIDENT Mandela yesterday blamed apartheid-style "third force" agents, including the military and police, for the execution-style murders of five supporters of the ruling African National Congress last month.

The South African leader made the comments to mourners in the troubled KwaZulu-Natal province's Richmond area where the five ANC members - including two town councillors - were shot on July 21, the country's Sapa news agency reported.

"We are not dealing here with an individual or just a small group of criminals," he said. "We are dealing with experienced political criminals in command of huge resources."

The President said the killers included a "tiny minority" of police and army members - including senior officers.

"We are dealing with a highly co-ordinated network of people deployed in state organs, such as the army and the police," he told about 2,000 mourners and ANC supporters.

He urged supporters of the ANC and their chief black rivals, the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, to reach out to one another despite political tensions. Police are investigating whether the killings were related to last month's community by-election, which became a bitter contest between the ANC and supporters of Sifiso Nkabinde, a local leader.

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Plain-speaking Herzog puts Bonn's lame ducks in a flutter

In an act of unusual collective wisdom, Cabinet ministers are spending their summer holidays in Germany or at least within hailing distance of Bonn megaphones.

Heads in the East have seen a flotilla of politicians getting their feet wet. Tomorrow they will be at work again in Bonn for an emergency debate on the stalled and probably doomed "reforms of the century", the promised overhaul of the tax system.

More and more, the Kohl government looks a lame duck. It needs to modernise and lacks the energy to con-

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

since the population of that need. Politicians surmise that full-blooded reform will lose next year's general election and blame this on a "conser-

vative" electorate rather than on their own faltering leadership. The Social Democratic Opposition thinks, meanwhile, that it is displaying muscle by blocking Helmut Kohl's tax reforms. In fact it is doing the Chancellor a favour, deflecting blame from the Government. The result is a stalemate that is dragging Germany down in the world's competitiveness leagues.

Little wonder that business leader Hans-Olaf Henkel is calling for a complete rethink of Germany's federal political structure. The postwar arrangement of checks and balances, Germany's fabled consensus society, seems to

be more check than balance. Herr Henkel is, as they say in German, a "man with corners", an awkward customer. As such, he is one of my favourite characters in the otherwise mediocre cast of the Bonn political theatre. On modernising the economy — he favours the British model — he speaks for many manufacturers as he sits at the head of the German Confederation of Industry. But he is also in step with, or even a pace ahead of, President Herzog, who has been urging the political class to wake from its Rip Van Winkle slumber.

It is not clear just how far the President agrees with

Herr Henkel's political vision, which is to alter the balance between upper and lower chambers to make political decision-making quicker and sleeker. Even so, Herr Henkel has hit on a deep truth. German politics should have changed fundamentally after unification, but did not.

The country grew larger, yet its institutions failed to adapt. The quest for stability in a rapidly changing Europe has become stagnation at the heart of the continent. The gridlock in Bonn will not end — and this is the depressing thing — with the departure of Herr

Kohl. Whatever the outcome of next year's parliamentary election, the parties will continue to trip themselves up. There is no powerful constituency for radical change or institutional reform.

The best we have is the strange informal alliance between Herr Henkel and President Herzog. That makes the next presidential election more critical than usual. The vote will not be held until the spring of 1999, but analysts have already begun to worry. President Herzog says he does not want to stand again, and so the candidates are quietly positioning themselves for the succession.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, could be put forward by the Bavarians. The Social Democrat veteran, Johannes Rau, is a likely candidate.

Rita Süßmuth, the Christian Democratic Speaker of parliament, is a possibility. So, too, is Professor Jutta Limbach, the head of the constitutional court.

Yet none of these politicians has the necessary voice, the talent for plain-speaking, needed to demand sacrifice from the Germans. Herr Waigel is too closely identified with the Kohl Govern-

ment. The others are, by instinct, soft-spoken conciliators. The German President obviously does not have the clout of the French or the American heads of state. One Bonn wag compares the role with that of a dynamic British monarch — "without the corolla, the carriages or Camilla". Over the past few years German Presidents have discovered that they really do have a role to play in articulating unpleasant truths. President Herzog, sniffing the brackish air of Bonn, is doing just that, and remarkably the Germans are listening. Someone should persuade him to stay on for a second term.

Muslims threatened by drunken Croat mob

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH peacekeepers in Bosnia urged a Muslim village in central Bosnia yesterday with armed vehicles and an attempt to protect newly returned villagers from an angry mob of Croats. Nato officials said.

Dr. Ken Croat mobs returned to the village of Kozarica after threatening it on Saturday. Major Wilkinson, a spokesman for the Nato Stabilisation Force, said they had grouped themselves in the north and south of the village and 55 Muslims were trapped.

The refugees had been fleeing from the town of Kozarica and surrounding villages about 10 miles north of Sarajevo.

A group of local Croats, who had returned to the area, blocked a road all day on Saturday, preventing more from returning. A Nato spokesman said the Nato Task Force (PTF) was in the area.

The PTF failed to disperse the crowd after it turned violent and the confrontation continued into Saturday night.

A group of Croats hung around the night drinking heavily and waiting for the PTF to return. One employee, who was seen hurrying in the area, said this morning a Croat who was heavily intoxicated, Mr Ivanko said. By the afternoon British troops were taking up positions to protect the Muslims.

Four villages were affected, though late yesterday Nato peacekeepers were only protecting Kozarica, since the Muslims had fled two of the settlements after several hours of threats and taunts by Croat mobs despite the presence of the British troops.

Blair urged by Italy to form alliance on EU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN FLORENCE

THE Italian Prime Minister, Professor Romano Prodi, took advantage of Tony Blair's Italian connection at the weekend to urge an Anglo-Italian alliance on European Union policies from unemployment to the single currency.

"We need common action, a common approach," Signor Prodi told the Prime Minister, who on Saturday began his annual holiday in Tuscany with his family.

The Blairs are staying on the estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General and millionaire Labour MP. The ten-acre multi-million pound estate, in the hills of "Chianti" near San Gimignano, has a neo-classical villa, a 45ft swimming pool, a tennis court and a chef-cum-butler from Galicia called Paolo.

The Blairs have become known in the area for their casual chic and their love of Tuscan food and wine. Last year Mr Blair praised Tuscany as "a land where you can breathe history and culture", adding: "And I am also partial to a couple of glasses of wine".

But the Prime Minister put off the delights of "San Jiminy" (as British expats call it) for a day to don a lightweight suit and tie and hold talks with Signor Prodi in nearby Bologna. The Italian Prime Minister told Mr Blair that Britain and Italy had a common interest in counteracting the weight of Germany and France in Europe, and urged Britain to join the single currency despite its doubts.

Mr Blair was non-committal, merely observing that new Labour had much in common with Signor Prodi's centre-left

Olive Tree alliance, and that he was "full of admiration" for Italy's attempts to meet the Maastricht single-currency criteria by cutting its budget deficit.

After the meeting it was time for a walkabout through the streets of Bologna. Signor Prodi's home town, in the glare of the paparazzi's flashbulbs, Signor Blair turned down a chance to explore Bologna's shops and boutiques, instead steering her husband and their children, Euan, Nicholas and Kathryn, toward the Archiginnasio, Bologna's 16th-century university, which contains the world's oldest anatomy lecture room, the Teatro Anatomico.

Accompanied by Signor Prodi's wife, Flavia, and their son, Giorgio, who is studying at the London School of Economics, the Blairs visited the huge Gothic church of San Petronio and looked in at a museum devoted to Giorgio Morandi, the still-life painter (1890-1964). Mrs Blair drew the line, however, at climbing the 498 steps of Bologna's highest leaning tower, the Torre degli Asinelli.

By now the Blair children — the boys in T-shirts and shorts, little Kathryn in a summer dress and straw hat with a camera slung around her neck — were looking as if they would much rather be in the pool at the villa. The Blair boys were only partly consoled by a gift of Bologna football club jerseys signed by Roberto Baggio.

Signora Prodi, perhaps recalling that Bologna has always combined *la grassa e la dotta* (the fat and the learned), adroitly steered the two fam-

ilies to Diana's, one of Bologna's top restaurants where they tucked into mortadella, Bologna's sausage, with tagliatelle (pronounced by Mr Blair to be "very, very good") and tartufo, all washed down by two of the best local wines, a sparkling Antinori white and a Lambrusco red.

Then it was back to San Gimignano, this time in shirt-sleeves, and ten days of relaxation. *La Stampa* remarked that the fact the Blairs had chosen Tuscany for their holiday for the second year running showed that "Chianti-shire" had "confirmed its status as the favourite hideaway for the rich and famous — particularly from Great Britain".

□ Rome: Italy's rail backbone was split in two yesterday after a construction crane fell across tracks in a Rome station, forcing tens of thousands of travellers to wait for hours in sweltering stations. By early evening some railway officials cautiously predicted that railway traffic would return to normal today. There was no official estimate of how many people were stranded or delayed.

Passengers shoved their way into buses, some of them lent by Rome's mass transit system, to be shuttled to stops south of the capital, and vice versa, to proceed with their journey on one of the vacation season's busiest weekends.

"It's been a day from hell," said Alicia Guarinaccio, a 21-year-old New Yorker trying to backpack her way from Paris to Naples.

For most of the day, no trains were moving south or north through the capital.



Michel Menin, right, a famed tightrope-walker and deputy mayor of Revinay in east France, officiates at his daughter's wedding 25ft above the ground

WORLD SUMMARY

Rebel units in Algeria murder 99

Paris: Nearly 100 people have been killed over the past week by Muslim rebels armed with swords and guns in a series of massacres in Algeria. More than 600 civilians have been murdered since the June 5 elections (Susan Bell writes).

Thirty-eight people, including elderly men, women and children, were killed on Thursday in Sidi el Madani, 30 miles south of Algiers. On Tuesday night, 40 guerrillas murdered 41 people in a village southwest of the capital and on Wednesday night 20 people were killed in Larbaa, southeast of Algiers.

Free heroin

Sydney: State ministers have agreed to a trial in which heroin addicts will be supplied with the drug at the expense of the state to assess the effect on health and on drug-related crime.

Comoros rally

Mutsamudu, Comoros: Separatists seeking a return to French rule have declared independence on the Comoran island of Anjouan and hoisted French flags at the abandoned governor's palace. (AFP)

Tiger kills two

Tokyo: A Japanese couple were mauled to death by a tiger at a game park near Tokyo, but saved their three-month-old grandson, after they ignored warnings to remain in their vehicle. (Reuters)

Fela Kuti dies

Lagos: Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, the Nigerian singer, composer and saxophonist and thorn in the side of the country's political establishment, has died of an AIDS-related illness aged 58. (Reuters)

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Weekend climber deaths take Alps toll above 30

Grenoble: Ten mountaineers died in the Alps this weekend, bringing the death toll from climbing accidents in the mountain range in recent days to more than 30, officials said. The latest victims died in

Austria and Italy, though since the Alpine climbing season began in mid-July others have died in France and Switzerland. Mountaineering experts blamed unseasonal weather. (AFP)

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£45,000	£452.50	£455.39	£456.96
£50,000	£502.78	£506.07	£507.64
£55,000	£553.06	£556.75	£558.32
£60,000	£603.34	£607.43	£609.00
£65,000	£653.62	£657.71	£659.28
£70,000	£703.90	£708.00	£709.57
£75,000	£754.18	£758.29	£759.86
£80,000	£804.46	£808.57	£810.14
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Are we ready for the next plague?

We are dropping our defences against disease, Anjana Ahuja reports

In the Middle Ages, one would not have lingered by the marshes of eastern England, particularly those in Kent and Essex. Nowhere in the country, which was falling prey to plagues, was more hospitable to the malaria parasite.

The menace of malaria hung over British shores until the mid-19th century, when it mysteriously declined. By 1940, the disease was no longer a threat to humans, because of rising standards of hygiene, the falling price of the anti-malarial drug quinine and the lessening availability of cattle, on which mosquitoes prefer to dine. But there is no guarantee, says a leading parasitologist, that malaria will not haunt the nation again.

The warning has been issued by Robert Desowitz, Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina, who has spent many of his 71 years studying insect-borne diseases in places such as Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Burma, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, India, Laos, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. His view, expressed in his book *Tropical Diseases*, is that the "golden age of antibiotics is waning". As a result, he says, it is not impossible that the nightmares once vanquished by modern science will recur.

Isolated outbreaks of Ebola and Lassa fever are, like the rise of HIV, a sign to him that we should be on our guard. However, he does not wish to seem apocalyptic. "It may be true that there are diseases coming out of the jungle to kill us," he says. "My response is that we don't know that, but we ought to be alert."

His book is an eloquent and sometimes alarming history of how diseases have hitched their way around the world. The subject is that humans, particularly in the colder climes (this includes the British), live in a fool's paradise. Our defences are further weakened by mass migration and global change, leading to great changes in epidemiology. He expresses incredulity

that worldwide efforts to combat infectious disease are being wound down.

"I was listening on the radio this morning to America's new military chief of staff, who was saying that we cannot demilitarise against old enemies," he says. "The symmetry with disease struck me. We are not properly prepared."

The science budget is shrinking. My opinion is that the World Health Organisation is scientifically bankrupt. We are having problems with infectious disease. If you were going to certain parts of the world, you would be hard pushed to find a really good anti-malarial drug. We have neither cures nor preventions for viral diseases such as Ebola, Lassa and HIV."

One particular worry is climate change, which he sees as an enormous potential problem. Tropical diseases such as malaria are very temperature-sensitive — higher temperatures allow an influx of alien pests, and the warmth encourages the pests to breed more rapidly.

Other researchers have been discovering the effect of climate change on unwelcome visitors. Biologists at Leeds University have set up a simple experiment that shows what happens to insects when faced with temperature changes. Using eight linked cages, and three species of fruit fly adapted to different temperatures, Professor Bryan Shorrocks and Dr Andrew Davis have tried to replicate what would happen to fruit flies if the temperature changed across Europe. The Biotechnology and Biological Research Council financed the £241,000 project.

The cages were connected by thin tubes, through which the flies could migrate. The temperatures in the cages ranged from 10°C to 25°C, the intention was to mimic average temperatures across a swath of Europe stretching from Leeds to southern Spain. The optimum temperatures for the three types of fruit fly, *Drosophila subobscura*, *Drosophila*

simulans, and *Drosophila melanogaster* — were, respectively, 15°C, 20°C and 25°C. Fruit flies are easy to use and they breed quickly.

When each species was tested on its own, and confined to one cage, it became extinct at temperature extremes. The next step was again to test each species on its own, but to allow it to move through the tubes between cages.

Dr Davis reports: "The flies survived across the whole temperature regime. Where they became extinct, the population was topped up by individuals from other cages looking for more food and space to lay eggs."

The last, and most complex stage, was to populate the cages with different permutations of the three species. This was where the most interesting results began to emerge. For example, when *subobscura* and *simulans* were thrown together, the *simulans* species dominated its familiar temperature climate of 20°C, but *subobscura* was more populous at about 10°C, well below its optimum temperature.

Dr Davis says that each species did not necessarily behave according to expectation. He concludes: "We may not be able to predict where a species will occur on the globe purely by knowing its temperature requirements. It's surprising."

In other words, matching the pest to a temperature zone is not that simple. Dr Davis is keen not to be seen as alarmist. "I am not saying these effects will happen, or that they will be important," he says. "But some of the things that might happen with global warming may need planning, particularly pest problems."

Professor Desowitz does not envisage doom for the human race. Not yet, anyway. "People have survived plagues before, but we are not preparing ourselves properly. Perhaps," he adds, "not without a whiff of menace, 'London will become malarious again.'"

Tropical Diseases, by Robert Desowitz, HarperCollins, £18.99.



The malaria mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*: there is no guarantee that the disease will not haunt the nation again

Gender-bending error Eyeless worms High living

When science gets it wrong

IN JUNE last year, a team from Tulane University in New Orleans published a study in *Science* that sent a chill through the chemical industry, fired up the environmental movement and earned big headlines around the world. It claimed that environmental chemicals harmless on their own formed a potent "gender-bending" cocktail when mixed — up to 1,600 times as powerful in mimicking the effects of natural oestrogens as any of the individual components were.

Last week the team quietly withdrew the study, admitting in the same journal that neither they nor anybody else had been able to repeat it.

Whatever merit this publication contained, and despite the enthusiasm it generated, it said, "It is clear that any conclusions drawn from the paper must be suspended until such time, if ever, as the data can be substantiated."

But it came as no surprise to one critic, Steven J. Milloy, author of the highly entertaining *Junk Science* Home Page on the World Wide Web (<http://www.junkscience.com>), who hailed the Tulane study as "probably nonsense". Mr Milloy, executive director of the "Sound Science Coalition" in Washington, naturally welcomed the retraction, but asked the question,

"Where's all the publicity now?"

The Tulane team, which was led by Dr John McLachlan, tested four pesticides against yeast cells engineered to contain the gene for the human oestrogen receptor, plus a "reporter" gene that makes the yeast culture turn blue when a chemical binds to the receptor.

On their own, the pesticides — dieldrin, endosulphate, toxaphene and chlordane — showed only a weak response. When they were tried in pairs, the activity shot up by between 160 and 1,600 times. "It was really quite astounding," Dr McLachlan told *Science* at the time.

These findings were seized on by people who fear that



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

environmental pollutants are slowly subverting the male sex by lowering sperm counts and increasing the incidence of abnormalities such as undescended testicles. Lynn Goldman, a senior official at the US Environmental Protection Agency, said they could have "enormous policy implications". A new law subsequently instructed the agency to set up a screening programme for oestrogenic activity in pesticides.

The scientists made an honest error, and deserve credit for a graceful retraction. But policymakers should also take note, not only of what happened but also of Mr Milloy's home page address.

A home on methane hill

DEEP IN the Gulf of Mexico, US oceanographers have found colonies of eyeless worms living on methane ice. Until fairly recently, nobody knew that this form of ice — properly called a methane hydrate — even existed.

The discovery was made on a mound of methane hydrate 8ft in diameter and 1,800ft down. At great depths and low temperatures, methane forms hydrates, which are usually covered by deep layers of sediment. But in a few places, such as this one, they appear

above the seabed. The one to two-inch long worms, flat and pinkish, team over the surface of the mound, burrowing into holes in its surface. "When you look at it, you go 'Wow,'" Dr Charles Fisher of Pennsylvania State University, a member of the expedition team, said.

The speculation is that the worms, which have fully developed digestive tracts, either live on bacteria that in turn live on the methane, or exist in a symbiotic relationship with them. The find shows that wherever on Earth there is a niche, however improbable, there is likely to be something living in it.

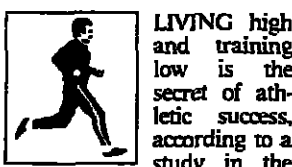
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LIVING high and training low is the secret of athletic success, according to a study in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*. This will confirm what a lot of athletes already believed, but it is still useful to have scientific evidence.

Two physiologists at the University of Texas South-

Altitude and winning ways

western Medical Centre, Doctors Benjamin Levine and James Stray-Gundersen, timed 39 amateur runners in a 5,000-metre race at sea level. Then they split them into three groups, who trained for four weeks. One group lived and trained at sea level, another

lived and trained at 2,500m, and the third lived at 2,500m but trained at 1,200m.

The only group to improve in the next 5,000m race were those who lived high but trained low. The combination works because living high generates additional red blood cells, while training low enables athletes to use their muscles intensively, which is much harder if training is done at high altitude.

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'I don't kill people very often'

Throwing the bones is as important as carrying a pistol when it comes to fighting crime in South Africa's outlying areas. Sam Kiley reports

Inspector Jackson Gopane of the South African Police Service is planning to kill someone with a watch strap. He doesn't know the name of his victim — that choice is in the hands of the spirit world.

He will shut the wooden door of his sacred hut against the oven-hot winds of South Africa's Northern Province. In the cool, thatched interior, surrounded by strips of dried puff adder, bits of exotic tree bark, scores of jam jars filled with bugs, beetles and animal fat, he will strip off his blue uniform to conduct a secret — and expensive — ritual.

Using the dead man's wristband, Inspector Gopane will resurrect Sergeant Johannes Siphulu and send him 200 miles across the veld into the heart of Soweto. There, he will take revenge on the crook who killed him in a shootout. Nelson Mandela's benign and smiling image will oversee the proceedings, looking down from a curtain that keeps blinding light out of the hut.

"The spirit might fly down to Soweto in a loaf of bread," he says. The fee for the service is R2,000 (about £285) — more than a month's wages for the average South African.

Inspector Gopane is neither a con man, nor loony. He is a traditional healer, recognised as such by the Health Ministry. Most South Africans would call him a sangoma — a witchdoctor.

He is also one of the few success stories in a police force that has almost collapsed under the strain of democracy. Under apartheid, officers placed more importance on keeping blacks in their place and the "Comrades" out of power than preventing crime. As a result, fewer than a third of South African detectives have had proper training, and many have failed to adjust to policing in a democracy.

One in 40 South Africans will die in car smashes or violent crime.

But in Inspector Gopane's manor, a vast area the size of an English county, things have improved.

"I don't kill people very often. I have to be very careful. If I get the *muni* [magic] wrong, then the spirits will come back and finish me," he says, sitting on the matted floor of his mud hut with a towel wrapped around his midriff. His police-issue, knee-

length socks peek out from below the hem. "Most of the time people come to me with medical problems, or if they have had something stolen — mainly goats and cattle — or if they have been bewitched and have had a run of very bad luck."

His main diagnostic tool rattles inside the skin of a genet cat, the tail acting as a stopper. He mutters a few quick prayers and spills a

division come to me for help."

As I wander past a yellow dog lying in the dirt of his compound, where he has set up a small shop as another sideline, I find it difficult to believe that Inspector Gopane is the Hercule Poirot of the dark side. Whether he is dressed in the still much despised police blues and pistol, or as a witchdoctor — an outfit which includes a bizarre headress of multiple animal skins — locals greet him with warmth and familiarity. The non-smoking, teetotal lay preacher at St John's Apostolic Church, Ntswana, is formally employed as the community relations officer at Bochum police station, 20 miles from his home.

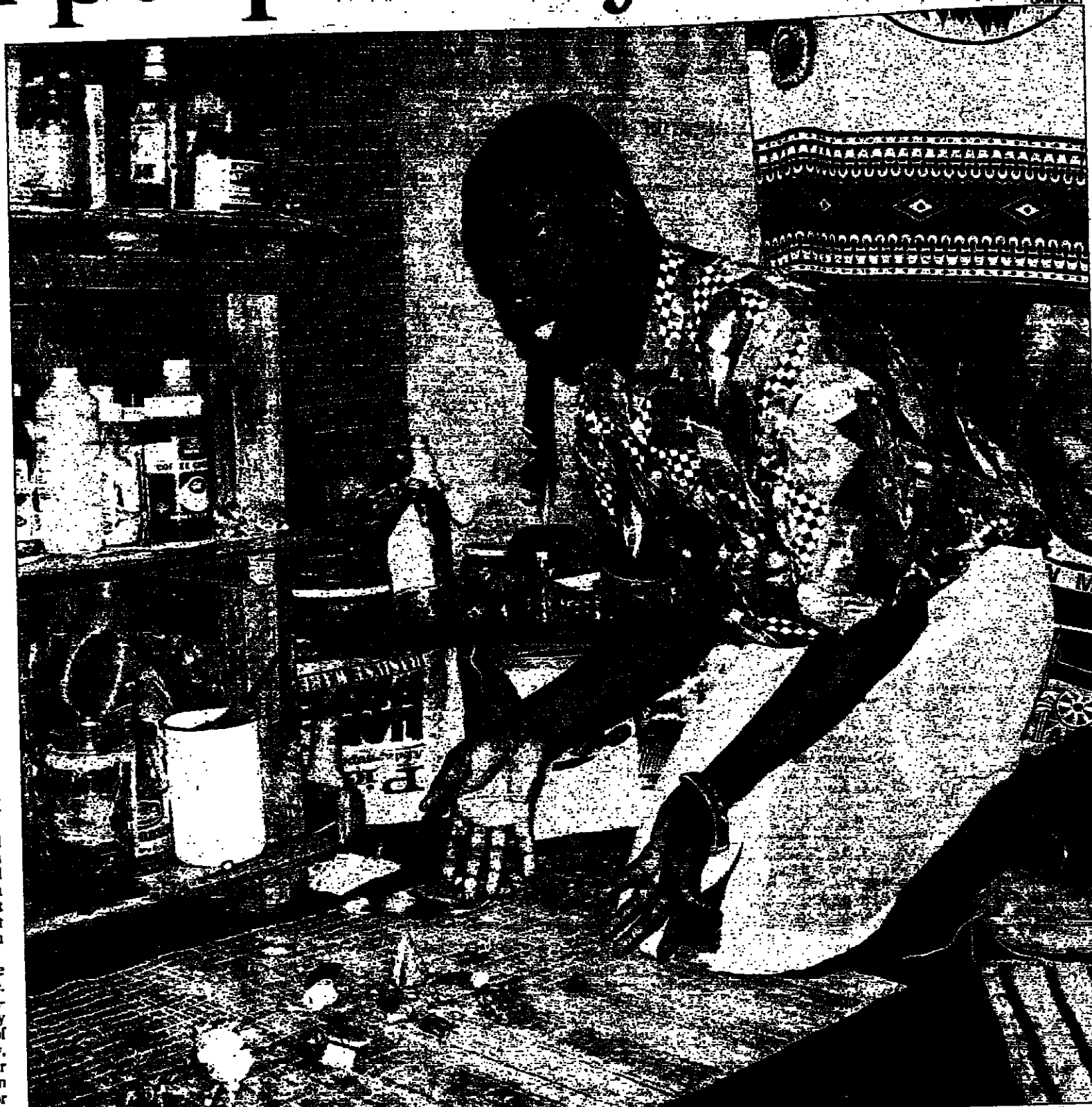
The dedicated outpost, close to the borders of Zimbabwe and Botswana, is in the centre of what must be the most superstitious region in southern Africa. For decades, Johannesburg's newspapers have thrilled and disgusted their mainly white readers with tales of witch-burning and *muni* killings, often of children.

Stories about old ladies caught with buckets of dried genitals and human hearts reinforced even liberal white perceptions that South Africa's blacks were not quite ready for freedom, much less for power.

However the stories were interpreted, they were true. Bochum is South Africa's Salem. Women are particularly at risk from accusations of witchcraft. Until recently, scores were killed every year by irate neighbours seeking an explanation for the illness or death of relatives that went beyond poverty, ignorance of basic hygiene and a lousy health service. In a world in which magic is very real to most people, what easier way to purge a sense of grief than to burn an old lady out of her house or hack her to pieces?

What easier way for the old apartheid supporters to confirm the worst racist preconceptions of their followers and refocus discontent on hocus-pocus than to let it happen?

When Jackson Gopane entered the police academy in Bloemfontein, capital of the then Orange Free State (it has since dropped the Orange) in 1980, the brick-faced Afrikaners who glare out of his graduation photograph could never have imagined that the



Inside his hut, Inspector Gopane throws the bones. "They are more reliable than the telephone. They tell me straight away what has happened"

'Most of the time people come to me with their medical problems'

Inspector Gopane's official persona

Inspector Gopane's official persona

Inspector Gopane's official persona

young man from their country's arid north would end up a fully fledged, practising witchdoctor working inside their beloved force. Neither did the young Gopane.

"It wasn't until seven years later that my grand-grandfather (sic) came to me in a dream and told me to become a healer. Until then, I had only been saying prayers for people in trouble. But after he told me, I woke up and found the bones under my pillow. Later, other ancestors taught me what to do with the *muni*, which trees to use and what to say to them when I need their help," says Inspector Gopane over a snatched lunch of baked beans and an egg sandwich. His open and

friendly manner is disarming. He makes the weird sound ordinary. But he has had extraordinary success in his new role as a bridge between police work and tribal superstition.

Several other "witches" villages" filled with ordinary women, often widows, are scattered throughout the area. Blackened rings are all that remain of the homes they saw burnt by frenzied mobs.

Inspector Gopane's main job is to try to ensure the villages do not get any bigger and that unmarked "witches" graveyards get no fuller.

A police spokesman in the regional headquarters of Pietersburg said that since Inspector Gopane had arrived with his pistol and bones, there had been no proven *muni* killings and the witches' compounds were getting smaller.

"We haven't had any killings since early last year. Whatever the sangoma is doing, it works," mutters a white policeman. "It's creepy."

The inspector is more sanguine. "Most of these cases are really about jealousy and local political rivalries. People around here are very easily

turned against those who are accused of putting the evil eye on some poor soul. Now they have a chance. They can come to me and I go into the village to sort it out," he says, after settling a dispute between two women for the affections of a young man called Jonas.

A swift word with the warring women established that Rebecca had accused her rival of being a witch in a fit of jealousy. Her rival, Monica, fled to Bochum before a mob could be assembled.

"The whole thing seemed to be sorted out very quickly in Inspector Gopane's neat little office. What was the trick? "I told Jonas to stop fooling around or else I'd wither his private parts."

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There is a kind of mean spiritedness of which I am the focus

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It would be hard to find an educated adult in these islands who does not know the first two lines of Philip Larkin's most famous poem. For tourists, visitors and the unpoetically inclined they read: "They [P]k you up, your mum and dad! They may not mean to, but they do."

The poem ends with a defiant plea to stop procreating, and thus bring an end to the human race. This may be his mock saloon-bar philosophy at work but secretly, now and then, I suspect Larkin may have been serious. There is a lot of evidence he could have called on.

We live now in the ever-embracing jungles of our childhood. Wordsworth alerted us that the child was father to the man. Rousseau flayed us into recognition of the imperial estate of a childhood he himself scarcely had. At the end of a tormented century the Freud finally blew the gaff on it, and put the sex into it.

Since then, it has become the centre of our domestic and social concerns. It does indeed seem a

Dark dirty secrets in the Coleridge family

jungle down there, whether you are inside looking out of it, or older looking back on it, or older still looking after it. Where does its roots reach down, and will they ever stop digging?

This brooding on children came to a head when I read a PhD thesis by Cherry Durrant of Birkbeck College. It is called *The Lives and Works of Hartley, Derwent and Sara Coleridge*. It dropped into my letter box out of the blue. I have never met Durrant, and have no knowledge of her nationality, age, habits or hobbies, but her thesis, which is already a book in my opinion, is an enthralling study, tragic and moving by turns, of the bright children of one of the undoubted grandees of our literature — Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

One of my interests in this is that Coleridge's attitude to his children

was very like that of today's New Fathers. Indeed, much of the current practice regarding children can be traced back to the philosophy of Romanticism. Here is the prospective father pondering on pregnancy in a very late-20th century way: "The most obscure of all God's dispensations — it seems coercive against immaterialism — it starts uneasy doubts respecting immortality and the pangs the Woman suffers seem inexplicable in the system of optimism."

Hartley, the firstborn, arrives and is rhapsodised over and instantly idealised. Coleridge writes that he wants his children bred "in habits completely rustic". Hartley's boyhood must be spent "wandering like a breeze/ By lakes and sandy shores". God is supreme in Coleridge's philosophy, but nature is the pathway to God and the new child is nature's great



representative. "I deem it wise," Coleridge wrote "to make him nature's playmate." Which he proceeded to do in the most draconian way.

Sadly it turned out that he was

also one of those fathers who hopped off at every opportunity, leaving his sorely misrepresented wife to cope alone, often impeccably, sometimes distraught — as at the death of her second child of which she was not allowed to inform her husband in Germany as it might disturb his studies.

He also thought his child was a genius. When the three-year-old Hartley said "Stars be dead lamps they be not naughty, they be put in the sky with my brother Berkeley", Coleridge interpreted this as a theologico-astronomical hypothesis: "He is a very extraordinary creature and, if he live, will I doubt not prove a great genius."

Hartley became Coleridge's experiment. He used the boy to test his ideas on innocence, intelligence, nature and the development of the mind. He questioned him unceasingly, and one of the child's

most poignant statements was: "Do not ask me so many questions, papa. I can't bear it."

At this time, Durrant tells us, Coleridge would put Hartley on his knee and make him expound the differences between "Real Hartley, Shadow Hartley, Picture Hartley, Looking-Glass Hartley and Echo Hartley". On being shown in a glass a reflection of the mountain view from Coleridge's window in Cumberland he would be encouraged "to express himself concerning the difference between the thing and the image... trying with almost convulsive effort..."

Coleridge was often delighted with his experiments. "I never before saw such an Abstract of thinking as a pure act of energy — a thinking as distinguished from thought." Meanwhile, he staggered from adulation

to absence to railing at his admirable wife for alleged mistreatment of the children she cared for all the time. A Frankenstein father.

Hartley was led into thought very painful for him. On one occasion he was "thinking all day... what it would be if there were nothing, if all the men and women and trees and grass and birds and beasts and the sky and the ground were all gone". Very soon Coleridge was all gone for Hartley, when he left his family.

Derwent made some sort of escape as, eventually, did Sara. But neither were as intensively in the laboratory as Hartley, who became a sad, lonely drinker of whom his father grew ashamed.

But Larkin can have the last word. Coleridge's own childhood was not a happy one. He endured the hostility of brothers, the early death of a beloved father, the aloofness or indifference of a mother, exile to a boarding school hundreds of miles away. But they too, of course, were *raised* up in their turn.

The man who wrote the book of Spielberg's *E.T.* is back in the public eye, says Ros Drinkwater

Why shouldn't a bear be a literary lion?

William Kotzwinkle does not come out to play any more. When his 21st novel is published in this country next week, he won't be signing copies at Hachards or holding court at the Groucho. Instead, the man described by one newspaper as the Howard Hughes of American literature will be at home on his island off the Maine coast, where the lobster fleet acts as his alarm clock and days begin with him walking his boundaries, doing a little Tai Chi by the ocean before settling down to dream up another prizewinning novel in the sweet solar house designed by his novelist wife Elizabeth Gundy. He can recall the peace being disturbed only once, when a cruise liner passed by and a voice carried over the water. "That's where the guy who wrote *ET* lives."

That 21st novel, *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*, is a deliciously funny indictment of publishing hype. A professor is holed up in the Maine backwoods writing his magnum opus. Farmhouse and manuscript go up in flames. He rewrites his book and hides it under a tree for safety. A bear finds it, reads it and sees it not only as pretty hot stuff, but as his passport to becoming a PERSON. He heads for Manhattan, where he is hailed as a literary sensation, no one quite noticing that he is actually a bear. Meanwhile, back in the woods, the professor begins a strange metamorphosis...

Like most of Kotzwinkle's work, the book is rooted in fact. "When Elizabeth and I lived in a remote part of Canada our farmhouse burnt down and our manuscripts with it," he says. "After we rebuilt, whenever we went to town we would each put our work into briefcases. We came back one day to find Elizabeth's gone. An old lumberjack cleared up the mystery — 'Bear's got 'er' — and indeed we found the briefcase covered in toothmarks."

"The idea stayed with me for years. I'd think of the bear going off with the briefcase, I'd chuckle, but never got any further than that."

"It was only when I'd done enough book publicity tours that I began to see the insanity of the whole process. On a talk show, seconds before we went on air, the host said: 'You'll have to help me here. Bill, I haven't had to time to actually

read your book.' It occurred to me that now was the time to show how a bear could get away with it."

These days Kotzwinkle

"The bear has what everyone in America wants"

won't read a writer who promotes his work on TV. "It's turning art inside out, forcing the writer to become what he's not. It's OK for an extrovert, but extrovert writers tend not to be very deep. Young writers today are groomed to the idea

that you get out there and schmooze. It's understood that you'll tour 30 cities. Some go to 60. I know one writer who did and he came home a cocaine addict."

"The bear has what everyone in America wants — an agent, an editor and a publicist. But it's the animal side of us that wants this. We should rise above it."

Despite his high-minded principles, Kotzwinkle is no stranger to sleaze. "The only proper job I ever had was as a reporter on a tabloid newspaper in the days when tabloids were seriously dirty. My first story was *South American Woman Gives Birth to Puppies*. As I wrote it I thought: 'People are going to believe this.' That taught me a valuable lesson: the power of the written word."

Born 58 years ago on the wrong side of the tracks in a Pennsylvania coal-mining

town, Kotzwinkle trained as an actor in New York until it dawned on him that his improvisation was streets ahead of his acting. Marriage to the intellectual Gundy gave him the courage to write, and after his first book was published he took her to the Canadian wilds.

In the 1980s he flirted with Hollywood, writing several screenplays and called in by Steven Spielberg to write the book of *E.T.* But despite his hugely rewarding collaboration with Spielberg, he decided it wasn't for him. "Hollywood is for directors, not writers," he says. "On Academy Awards night the writers' table is next to the kitchens. You get hot food, but that's about it."

The idea of parallel worlds is a favourite theme of his. "It's a way of defeating materialism. Remember Hegel — in every era there is thesis and antithesis, conservative and revolutionary. They battle it out until there's a synthesis and another form is born."

"Think of the Middle Ages locked inside the Catholic view, very content, very limited. That had to break apart, and that's what's happening right now — the battle between the gross materialism that America typifies and our lost spirit. Curiously enough, our spirit is starting to return in quantum physics, with people like Stephen Hawking recognising the strange interaction between mind and matter — if you look at an electron, it changes its path."

Kotzwinkle is a man in tune with the elements; he could not live any other way. "Nature allows a man to be in touch with his feminine side," he says. "You absorb out of the ground when you walk softly, like an Indian. You feel the weather differently. When the barometer falls you can't think, but you can't fight it. You have to go with the fog and hear what it's saying."

But this is no back-to-the-earth romantic. "I own stock in a number of computer companies — that's how much I believe in them. One day mathematics will prove our interconnectedness, but it's already proven on the Internet. The magic is not just technological, it is psychological. Seeing our commonness is truly our only hope."

"I really do believe that the mystery of the Universe will be revealed by a mathematics so pure, so divine, that it will become graspable by everyone to a certain degree. The next wave will be an understanding of the celestial bodies and our connectedness to them. Science and the arts will lead us all to a better place."

● *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* is published on August 14 by Black Swan



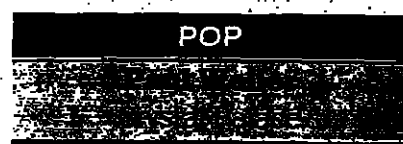
The author in his natural environment: William Kotzwinkle on his island off Maine

A round of dad's potent brew

IT WAS billed as "A Day At The Races" and the venue was the National Sports Centre where the likes of Sebastian Cue and Steve Ovett once recorded so many of their triumphs. Maybe that is why the other acts on this day-long bill seemed to be there as little more than pace-setters for Paul Weller, who with his 20-year track record was guaranteed the gold medal even before the event had started. This was probably deserved but unfortunately it meant that while Weller spent the day preparing himself for a two-hour musical lap of honour at the end, earlier contestants were left sprinting against the clock to make any impression at all.

Allotted a miserly 30 minutes, no one put her time to better use than Beth Orton. Six months ago she was a painfully shy performer struggling to do justice on stage to the highly promising material from her debut album, *Trailer Park*. A summer of festival gigs and the boost of being shortlisted for the Mercury Prize have done wonders for her confidence, for here she defied the "folkies" tag and attacked songs such as *She Cries Your Name* with a refreshing vigour while losing none of her beguiling innocence.

Starting for some bizarre reason with the old Soviet national anthem, Republics offered a tired set of musical clichés on



songs such as *Drop Dead Gorgeous* with infantile lyrics that surely fool no one. Second on the bill, Skunk Anansie were allowed a slightly more generous 45 minutes to perform material mostly from their second album *Stosh*. Skin, the band's charismatic black, shaven-headed singer, revels in an extreme in-your-face image yet the simple joy of songs such as *Hedonism* lies in the fact that underneath the posturing they are old-fashioned, mainstream pop fare. You were left with just the faintest suspicion that off-duty she may be more at home in Laura Ashley than her combat trousers.

After this series of quick-change musical relays, Weller took up the baton and set off on his marathon at a commendable pace with *The Changingman*. It is, perhaps, the perfect signature tune for someone who started out as a punk soloist in the Jam, became a white southerner with the Style Council and then just when his career appeared to have floundered, reinvented himself as a successful solo artist.

Yet Weller has also become known derisively as the grand old man of "dadrock" and has developed a vitriolic relationship with the critics to the point that the small print on his new album *Heavy Soul* bears the ungracious legend: "To anyone who ever stated me, 'Pek you'."

This is a shame for over his last three albums Weller has created a potent brew of driving R&B beats, meshing guitar textures and muscular vocals. He's pushing 40 but still looks great and although he sings a good octave lower he is increasingly sounding like a British equivalent of Neil Young, another veteran who manages constantly to redeem himself and his audience.

Weller is a nervy performer and his veins throb with pumped-up adrenalin even when he picks up an acoustic to take the set down with a ballad such as *Driving Nowhere*. Yet he is in his true element thrashing an electric guitar with eyes bulging on songs such as *Peacock Salt*, which struts with roostery power, or the rooey new single *Brushed*. Perhaps what annoys his critics is that unlike so many of his contemporaries Weller has not only remained on speaking terms with his original talent but has expanded his vocabulary, too.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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Save us from such parodies of the past

Magnus Linklater on the faking of our heritage

This weekend they removed the last few pieces of furniture while restoration work starts on one of the most remarkable houses in Britain. Newhall is a most precious relic — an unrestored 18th-century building. No Victorian additions, no baronial turrets, not even a new lick of paint inside. It stands just as it did when Dr Johnson visited it in 1773 and described its library as "the most learned room in Europe".

The great (and occasionally notorious) Dalrymple family acquired it in 1707, furnished and decorated it exquisitely, and lived there untroubled for nearly 300 years. Short of money in the 19th century, they left it untouched. Now, this architectural "sleeping beauty" has been acquired by the National Trust for Scotland whose task is to conserve it.

It will be, for them, a supreme test. The curse of old buildings is not benign neglect, but malign attention. All over Britain, historic houses have suffered in the name of "restoration", and the pursuit of authenticity — linked to the search for ever more visitors — has resulted in some awful examples: waxwork parlour-maids parading the idea of a "genuine" 19th-century kitchen; piped harpsichord music inviting you to "experience" the elegance of a ducal drawing-room; a "water-garden" or maze installed where none was ever meant to be; plastic chickens and farmyard smells at Robert Burns's cottage in Ayrshire.

The National Trust (of England) calls this kind of thing a "cultural sheep-dip": plunge the visitor into it and he comes up gasping for air, wondering what he's been through. Instead of learning about the past, he has had an artificial view of history imposed and has been discouraged from using his eyes and, more importantly, imagination.

The glory of houses such as Newhall, outside Edinburgh, Erdig in North Wales, or Chastleton in Oxfordshire, which is shortly to be opened, is that they have been allowed to speak for themselves. "Consult the genius of the place in all," said Pope in his Epistle to his friend Lord Burlington. An over-restored building, said William Morris, is "useless to scholarship and chilling to enthusiasm". The best effects are accomplished by the simplest means: a room is not always possible when you are dealing with hundreds of thousands of visitors and trying to entice thousands more. The Tower of London, Hampton Court and Stirling Castle have long since parted company with historic reality. They may be stuffed with historical artefacts, reeking of great events and crowned or severed heads, but they have crossed the museum barrier and become icons rather than real places. Now, armed with huge lottery grants, other such places have acquired that other 20th-century weapon of

destruction, the audio-visual experience.

Observe the dead eyes of a Japanese tourist clamped in earphones, stumbling from computer screen to virtual-reality display in some historic time capsule and you begin to appreciate how far this "fake" has gone and how far it trivialises our history.

There are other forces at work: endless health and safety regulations, some of them European but mostly home-grown, which force fire-sprinklers into the delicate tracery of an 18th-century ceiling, or replace the panes of a Georgian window with unbreakable glass. Disabled access, the watchword of our time, turns a balustrade into a ramp, or replaces a gravel driveway with tarmac. Some of these are inevitable, but by no means all. Brave owners who stand up to petty officialdom will usually win in the end, but they must be prepared for a war of attrition.

Once the greatest problem of protecting our heritage was a lack of funds as the owners struggled with near bankruptcy and leaking roofs. Now the enemy is too much money spent on the wrong things. Assisted by restoration experts and landscape gardeners, owners apply for grants to improve on the past, rather than simply rediscover it. Like psychiatry, restoration has become a growth industry, and like psychiatry it has attracted more than its fair share of quacks.

To be fair, both the National Trust and the Scottish National Trust realise the dangers. They now talk of "conservation" rather than "restoration", and the fragility of unspoiled places has been recognised as one of their most important qualities. The way that a house relates to its landscape, why its garden was built in a particular place, and the importance of long-term planning have all become part of the training programme for a new generation of gardeners. With this change has come evidence, limited so far, but growing, that an increasingly discerning public also wants a more sensitive treatment of our historic treasures.

Where conservation has been carried out rather than overdone, visitor numbers have increased. And there is no lack of examples: the unspoiled and perfectly maintained gardens at Merton House in the Borders, or Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's home, with its kitchen garden and gothic conservatory designed by the old man himself — such places are worth a dozen brass visitor centres, or a score of banqueting halls with added "wenches".

For some places, the process of vulgarising our past may have gone too far to be reversed. But for others, it may not be too late. Instead of spending more and more on attempting to recreate history, their owners should try standing back and helping it to rise, once again, to the surface. The time has come to respect our heritage, not to smother it.

Buildings are cursed not by benign neglect, but malign attention

Through the pages of her cookery book, an absorbing insight into the world of an 18th-century housewife

Annabella's recipe for a truly good life

friends and travelled both to London and abroad.

Annabella herself seems to have been known for her piety, but that did not stop her visiting the theatre when in London. At the end of her cookery book, she notes the cast list of a performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which probably occurred at Drury Lane before 1703. Colley Cibber played Falstaff, heading an amazingly strong cast, which included both the Powells, Penkethman, Wilkes, Johnson, and the incomparable Susanna Mountfort, who was playing Mrs Ford.

The Blounts lived well, and Annabella was an excellent housewife. She seems to have added recipes to her cookery book throughout her life. Her brother, who became Sir John and fought as one of George II's generals in the Highlands against Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745, shared her interest in food. He was celebrated both for bravery and for romantic exaggeration.

Horace Walpole later wrote to Sir Horace Mann: "When your relative General Guise was marching up to Carthage, and the pelicans were wheeling about him, he said: 'What would Chloe [the Duke of Newcastle's French cook] give for some of those to make a pelican pie.'"

When visiting his sister, Sir John may have tasted her lobster pie. This is the recipe: "Take all the good of a lobster and break it into little pieces, strew a little pepper and salt on them,

season them with beaten mace, take oysters and shrimps, make a pie of good paste, lay butter in the bottom, then lobster, then oysters and shrimps, and so till all is laid in the pie, and more butter a top. When it is baked, take the liquor of the oysters and white wine, put it in the pie, and serve it up."

The Blounts were certainly sociable people. Nowadays, the hosts of drink parties serve little snacks with the white wine or the cocktails. Mrs Blount had more than one recipe for

Mrs Blount's contains medicines as well as recipes. One of her less convincing medicines was "Snailwater, an approved water good for the jaundice and colic and stomach, especially for the consumption. Take a peck of garden snails..." Sir Rowland Bellasis gave her another remedy for consumption, which includes rosin, bees wax, and turpentine, and sounds suspiciously like furniture polish.

Mr Parsons advised her to cure smallpox by laying gold leaf on the scabs, which must surely have been ineffective as well as expensive. In January, 1709, she herself cured her daughter, Harriet, of a "snuffle in the head" by binding a mixture of brandy and candle wax on her feet. It cannot have done the little girl any harm.

When she first started the book in 1693, Annabella made an index, and entered recipes for all sorts of cakes, most of which sound delicious: for creams, conserves, and syrups, for "chips and dried things", for cheeses, for jellies, for marmalades, both orange and quince, for pies, for possets, for puddings, for veal, chicken, lamb, beef, calves head, tripe, and brawn, for stews, for all sorts of fishes, for wines and brewing. She could preserve all kinds of fruit. She was not afraid of the rougher tasks: "To sauce a pig. Take a pig and ruff it in the head, then ruff it down the backbone, and strow it a good deal of ginger..." She pickled scallops,

walnuts, pigeons, mushrooms, cucumbers, peaches — "they must be gathered in midsummer moon" — French beans, quinces, barberries, oysters, and "an old fat goose".

Annabella Blount made her cookery book a record of her friendships. Mrs Palmer gave her a recipe for lemon syllabub, Tom Chudleigh, a Devon neighbour, who was James II's Ambassador to Holland and turned Catholic, gave her one for potato pie. Mrs Arnold was very good at puff pastry; a French friend, "Madenoyssell Lafitte", gave a recipe for a French cake. "Take a pound of fresh butter, a pound of fine flour, a pound of fine sugar, 18 eggs, six whites, beat all this together for two hours, then add the juice of an orange and a glass of sack: when it is beat enough, put in a pound-and-a-half of almonds, much beaten, and as much citron or orange peel as you please or both." Mrs Blount noted: "Probatum est", which was her mark of approval.

Alexander Pope as her husband's friend in youth, a brother who became a brave general, a childhood in Gloucestershire, married life in Devon, seeing Cibber as Falstaff and Susanna Mountfort as Mrs Ford, several children including a daughter who became Duchess of Norfolk, lifelong devotion to the Roman Catholic Church in penal times, many friends: all these things make an exceptionally good life.

Yet it is her quality of care which is most touching, shown in the medicines which could not remedy then incurable diseases, in Sir Robert Southwell's 18 paragraphs on home brewing, which she carefully copied down, in the recipes, and all the business of an 18th-century Devon household which could not go to the supermarkets. I am left full of admiration for Annabella Blount's life.

William Rees-Mogg

such snacks. She gives this for "a fricassee of eggs": "Take 10 or 12 eggs, boiled hard and cut into slices; boil a glass of white wine with an anchovy or two; some sweet herbs, lemon peel cut small, an onion or handful of chives; add either oyster mushrooms, asparagus, bits of artichoke bottom, or what you have. Little or no mace, a little pepper, and a good lump of butter: when it tastes savoury, put in a coffee dish of cream: then throw in the eggs, toss it up and serve it on sippets [small pieces of toast]."

Like many early cookery books,

Who will be put to the sword?

Gordon Brown's spending review is certain to offend someone, says Peter Riddell

The success or failure of the Blair Government will be determined above all by its decisions on public spending. The core of the "new" Labour strategy was the promise that public services can be improved without a big increase in overall spending, and hence taxes on ordinary people. When I talked to Gordon Brown for his interview in *The Times* last week, he said a top priority for the autumn will be the comprehensive spending review which has just begun in Whitehall under the direction of Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary.

This is not some arcane Whitehall exercise, but goes to the heart of what Government does and what we all pay for. If the review succeeds, taxes should be lower than otherwise. I am surprised more attention has not been paid to the terms of reference because they reveal how broad, and deep, the rethink is supposed to be. Ministers will re-examine whether programmes fulfil Government aims, the scope for improving efficiency and how far objectives could be achieved by instruments other than public spending. The review is looking at the sale of surplus public assets and cross-departmental problems like criminal justice, local government finance, the countryside and rural policy, and housing.

The sceptics — and there are many, both in Whitehall and among Tory former ministers — argue that we have been here before, many times. Ministers have been talking about "rigorous zero-based reviews" since the days of Sir Edward Heath's "quiet revolution" in the early 1970s. In the Thatcher and Major years, the Tories conducted similar exercises —



most recently the rolling programme of fundamental reviews. These had only limited success, because of departmental resistance, apart from social security where Peter Lilley's decisions on reworking benefits will have a sizeable cumulative impact.

However, it is wrong to be too sceptical. Public spending may have remained above 40 per cent of national income, but the underlying trend has been downwards. Despite pre-election relaxations, the peak share of spending in each recession has been lower than in the previous one. That is only because of an unrelenting battle by successive Tory Chancellors.

There are two main pitfalls in comprehensive reviews. First, options leak, usually about the most headline-catching cuts. The classic example was what Nigel Lawson

described in his *The View from Number 11* as a "Cabinet riot" in autumn 1982 over a Central Policy Review Staff (think-tank) study on various spending options: education vouchers, replacement of parts of the NHS by compulsory private health insurance and cancellation of Trident. The resulting furore forced even Margaret Thatcher at the height of her post-Falklands power to rule out any of these options. When he became Chancellor, Lord Lawson pursued a more piecemeal, less confrontational and more successful approach to controlling spending, and reducing its share of national income. There has already been some squall in the current review, over charges in the NHS, with ministers

being forced to say that nothing has been ruled out — and they are certain to be more such rows over the next year.

The second, and relaxed, problem is one of timing. The time horizon of politicians is shorter than of spending programmes. Ministers seldom look beyond the next election, but it is often hard to achieve significant savings in merely two or three years. One of the Tories' big achievements was to take decisions, notably on changing the method of uprating, scaling back the state earnings related pension and equalising the retirement age, where the benefits build up over time.

The same dilemma is faced now. In the short term, Labour is trying to resolve the conflict between its acceptance of inherited Tory spending limits and the strong pressure for

higher health and education budgets by diverting money from the National Lottery and drawing on the contingency reserve.

Mr Brown is naturally eager to find tangible savings before the next election. But there is no short-term scope on pensions, while the Welfare to Work programme costs money in the short term. This leaves housing and incapacity benefit, and Mr Brown made a point in his interview with *The Times* of stressing the need to focus on the £1 billion in housing benefit fraud, out of a total cost of £11 billion. But there are no easy savings, given the need to provide incentives for new investment in social housing. By contrast, proposals for switching to a more contributory system made by Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, in his backbench days will not produce short-term savings.

The review is likely to examine the scope for raising more money from the private sector, as shown by the existing efforts to strengthen the private finance initiative. The most far-reaching change has been David Blunkett's proposal that students in higher education should pay part of their tuition fees through loans repayable out of their later earnings.

There are also unresolved questions over defence. When the strategic defence review was announced, George Robertson stressed it was not Treasury driven; but Mr Brown says defence is part of the comprehensive spending review. The search is now on for big savings in procurement, possibly of as much as £500 million. Expect a big argument on whether any money stays within the Ministry of Defence or is clawed back by the Treasury.

Mr Brown has shown that he is willing, even eager, to take bold decisions. Some of his colleagues have so far been more reluctant. But they will shortly have to risk offending Labour supporting interest groups. Mr Brown believes the review is a once-and-for-all opportunity for the Government to reshape spending programmes and priorities. The alternative is higher taxes. If the Government does not get decisions right now, there will be no second chance.

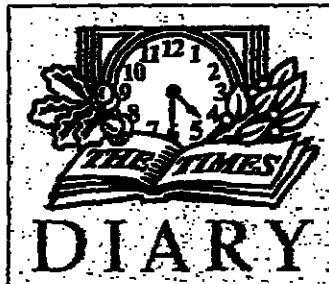
Royal court

THERE can be no further doubt of the burgeoning relationship between Peter Mandelson, Minister with Royal Connections, the Prince of Wales and his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles. In one week, the Labour Government has moved not only to retain the Royal Yacht *Briannia* but also to quash the anti-hunting Bill on the grounds that the Government is too busy.

Last week, No 10 moved to reject the story that Mandelson had held

clandestine meetings with Mrs Parker Bowles. They said that the pair had met only briefly at a drinks party.

Keen Mandelson-watchers, however, insist that the denial was a mere formality. Derek Draper, Mandelson's former assistant, who put the story round, would never have done so without consent from on high. It had to be formally denied and yet was a useful story to have in the public sphere to prove



that new Labour was not all about modish architects and pop music.

Labour's decision to sit on the anti-hunting Bill had as much to do with the opposition of the Prince of Wales as of those new Labour supporters, led by John Mortimer's wife Penny, who ride to hounds. The Prince is reported to have bitten his pro-hunting tongue before the election at the instigation of Mrs Parker Bowles. His reward was the quashing of the Bill. "Isn't it good that this Government listens," Mrs Parker Bowles is reported to have said this week.

The retention of the yacht will have been of great interest to the Prince. He grew so nostalgic about it on his recent trips abroad that he cried at the thought of losing it.

No problem with Christmas presents for young Catholics this

Christmas, as Cardinal Basil Hume brings out his latest work. Basil in Blunderland is based on a game which Hume used to play years ago with young children. It is a collection of thoughts on the spiritual life and reflects Hume's view that "now it is a fact that my spiritual life is more a wandering in Blunderland than a resting and relaxing in Wonderland".

Gazumped

RESENTMENT is bubbling against Tony and Cherie Blair at one of north London's estate agents. Four years ago, Holden and Matthews found the Blairs their five-bedroom Victorian terrace house in Islington, and were expecting to sell it for them when they moved into No 10. They even had potential viewers lined up for the property.

David Ruddock, an estate agent with the firm, says that Mrs Blair had been "sweetness and light". Then, quite suddenly, the lines of communication went dead. News of the house's sale had appeared in the newspapers.

"They didn't return our phone calls or our letters," says Ruddock, who had dreamt of a £14,000 commission. "Only two people here knew about it and nobody said a

word. The leak must have come from Downing Street."

The Blairs moved the handling of the sale to the Kensington-based estate agents Berkeley International, who sold the house for about £700,000 to a French couple who had first made inquiries at Holden and Matthews, leaving Ruddock to twang his braces in frustration.

Those police and lawyers under investigation in the Stephen Lawrence murder case will be intrigued that the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev John Sentamu, has been called to assist in the inquiry. Before coming to England in 1974,

Sentamu worked as a law official in Uganda under Idi Amin. His career ended after he sent innocent men to jail reasoning that they would be safer behind bars. This did little to enhance his popularity. "I got out of Uganda in 1974," he says. "If I had not, I would have been dead meat."

Charity case

FREEBIES continue to flow for the debt-ridden Princess Michael of Kent. She will soon be tucking in at the expense of the children's charity, Sparks. The Princess has been invited by the charity to attend a ball at the London Hilton in Park Lane, where there will be a champagne reception and four-course dinner followed by a five cabaret show. While the 700 other guests pay £95 each for their tickets, the Princess will eat for free. "She is a guest of honour," says Kensington Palace. "Guests of honour do not pay."

Car wars

REVOLUTIONARY fever grips Windsor. Leading members of the Liberal Democrat-dominated council are badgering the authorities at the castle to build an under-



Dining out: Princess Michael

ground car park in its grounds to alleviate the crush of tourists. The castle has pulled up its drawbridge with a snort.

The part of Robespierre is being played by Brian Ridge, chairman of the Windsor and Maidenhead Highway Panel. "It's all take, take, take up there at the castle," says Ridge.

The Long Walk, a three-mile, tree-lined drive leading up to the castle, is his preferred site for the car park. "All those lovely châteaux in France have got them," says Croyen Ridge, "so why can't we have one?"

P.H.S.



Camilla Parker Bowles and Mandelson, her Westminster connection





SHIP AHoy

Britannia should be saved but not exploited

With his customary sense of timing, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio but free to roam the seven seas, has used Cowes week to indicate that the Royal Yacht *Britannia* will not after all be sent to Davy Jones' locker. Instead, he implied, that after a £50 million refit — paid for by the private sector — the grand old lady of the sea will enjoy another outing. The Royal Family would undertake a "timeshare arrangement" at times when the ship was thought essential for official duties. Otherwise, she would be utilised for commercial purposes.

At the beginning of the year the yacht had entered the waters of intense political controversy. The Government, long at sea in the polls, had decided that *Britannia* might be its salvation. There followed an extraordinary disagreement between the two main parties over the best solution. The Tories at the behest of John Major openly sought continued nationalisation: they asserted that the whole £60 million cost should be met from public sources. The Labour Party, on the other hand, favoured retaining the vessel but seeking an exclusively private funded prospectus. Tony Blair and many others on his front bench decided the Conservatives for lavishing taxpayer's money on *Britannia* in his election material. The British electorate, watching all this, can hardly be blamed for any subsequent confusion.

While the charges were exchanged *The Times* argued for common waters. We thought that in diplomatic and economic terms *Britannia* had justified the case for many more years in service. The benefit of £500 million often claimed for the ship might well have overstated its direct value. Nonetheless, it seemed to us that the yacht created a climate conducive to the completion of contracts. We would have had no qualms if an entirely new ship had emerged while the original became a floating mu-

seum. We thought that a private-public partnership was perfectly practicable.

That now seems to be the core of the Government's thinking. Although full details are not yet available the deployment of the Private Finance Initiative for these ends would appear an appropriately imaginative end to a less than attractive process of political deliberation. A private consortium would make the initial investment and the public would pay for those occasions when the ship was used for specific national requirements. The Conservative Party also seems satisfied with the new proposal. This will restore a much needed partisan truce which at one stage threatened to involve the monarchy in political warfare.

The option of outright replacement should not be lightly dismissed as the difference in cost would be relatively modest compared with the prospective refit. However, there is a worthy argument that the history of the original craft holds a special attraction. We would not, after all, rebuild Windsor Castle or Buckingham Palace with plate glass replacements. We must also ensure that the character of *Britannia* is in keeping with its new corporate mandate. The sacrifice of dignity for a third-rate theme park would eventually undermine the entire operation.

If these concerns can be satisfied then the present proposal should be explored with full vigour. The ideal result has always been that the Royal Yacht becomes a national ship and undertakes both private and public functions. The Government has tasked to place itself where Mr Mandelson intends to weigh anchor. The spectacular role that this vessel played in the last hours of British sovereignty in Hong Kong should have convinced even the sceptics of its value. Britain no longer rules the waves but *Britannia*, suitably modernised, will win the hearts of businessmen, royals and romantics.

TAKING ON TERROR

Arafat's ambivalence has prompted Israel's actions

Israel has reason to suspect that the blast which left 13 dead in Jerusalem last week will not be the final act of brutality. The country fears a repeat of events nearly 18 months ago when four attacks in nine days left 57 dead and hundreds injured. The suicide bomber is perhaps the most deadly weapon in the Middle East arsenal. Detection is extraordinarily difficult and an assault, if successfully planned, is invariably executed. The sole chance of interception lies in infiltration of the groups that carry out this horrific sacrifice. For that reason Binyamin Netanyahu has ordered the arrest of over one hundred people known to sympathise with the Hamas movement.

In these circumstances the actions of the Israeli leader are entirely understandable. An unduly heavy-handed approach towards those detained would have important costs and consequences. But his pursuit of public safety is obviously legitimate. We would expect no less if these outrages were repeated in this country. Yasser Arafat, and others associated with his administration, have condemned the clampdown as "collective punishment". Mr Arafat's description of the recent arrests as a declaration of war on the Palestinian people seems unlikely to discourage future Hamas atrocities.

If Mr Arafat finds Israel's actions an embarrassment then it is largely one of his own making. The attitude of the Palestinian Authority to terrorists in its territory has often been ambiguous to the point of ambivalence. Hamas activists have remained at liberty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or have swiftly escaped if captured. The Palestinian police responsible for removing such threats contains individuals at very senior levels who are suspected of fermenting

insurrection. It is not surprising that Mr Netanyahu would prefer to take direct responsibility for his citizens' security.

This same approach applies to the Palestinian leader. The Prime Minister claims that Mr Arafat has done "damnable" to eradicate terrorism. That is an overstatement but one that indicates Israel's despair. While Mr Arafat is willing to condemn individual incidents he chooses to blame others for the atmosphere in which the bombings happened. He has refused to place himself or the Palestinian Authority squarely against the extremists. Instead he has publicly argued that Hamas — including its military wing — is a "patriotic movement".

That attitude will harm Israeli and Palestinian alike. The peace process is the sole means by which long-suffering ordinary Palestinians have any chance of advancing their lot. Whether that happens is not in the gift of Mr Arafat or Hamas but will come from decisions made by the Israeli Government. Neither Mr Netanyahu nor any successor will make concessions in the wake of street explosions. If the process does not deliver permanent peace in tangible terms to both parties it will not prosper.

If Mr Arafat is prepared to take the political risk he could make Mr Netanyahu's current campaign redundant. He could make it clear that dialogue was the sole means by which the Palestinian Authority intended to advance its case. Such a stance would achieve more than a relaxation of short-term tension. Israel seeks peace and will make further concessions if it is assured of its security. Mr Arafat has so far managed to retain a relationship with both Hamas and the Israeli Cabinet. The time has come for him to make a choice between them.

VICTORIANS VALUED

An age of achievement is marked this month

Two Queens have stamped their names on eras in a manner that no male monarch has matched. Despite the efforts of some in the educational establishment, most children still recognise the reigns of Elizabeth I and Victoria. One hundred years ago Britain celebrated — with an unexpected enthusiasm — Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The 1890s were the point at which the Victorians first thought of themselves in that context and tried to assess their own impact.

Despite the images of the stark workhouse and cheap child labour in northern factories, Victorian Britain inspired much for which we should still be grateful. The monarch's long tenure symbolised one of the most distinctive features of Britain during this tumultuous period. What might rightly have been feared as radical political change was smoothly turned into consensual transition. While most European states slid into increasingly intense internal strife — and even the United States endured Civil War — this country enjoyed domestic tranquillity.

The same period is indelibly linked with prosperity and progress. Victorian Britain witnessed the peaks of Britain's industrial might — assisted by the adoption of free trade in the 1840s — but also the beginnings of the decline with which we are familiar. Britain was without much doubt the workshop of the world in the 1850s. The Industrial Revolution may have taken place under earlier monarchs but its full fruition only became clear under Victoria.

If industry was one important part of the

Victorian experience, empire was surely the other. The pursuit of political power across the planet was controversial at the time — opposed by the nonconformist section of the Liberal Party — and has been considered with diminishing sympathy ever since. Yet it says much about the Victorians that they were not only confident with the emerging industrial world of their own but also insisted on exporting their ideas, through trade and empire, worldwide.

Britain has since been shaped by both these forces. An astonishing proportion of the social habits, activities, pastimes and conventions of the country we know now were shaped during these decades. The Victorians were — among their other attributes — organisers and that has been apparent in what they left us. Whether we can match their sense of innovation and experimentation remains another matter.

Over the next few weeks *The Times* will outline and explore several features of the Victorian phenomena. The scope will range across the spheres — economic, political, literary and social. It will encompass cotton mills and cultural movements, crime as well as the constitution, religion alongside railways. Our purpose in this enterprise will be not merely to look back but also to appreciate our own heritage. The Victorian effect is above all else one of discovery. In the course of August we hope to capture the spirit that the Victorians themselves knew so well: the one that took them from the Great Exhibition to the greatest empire.

Britain's need for businessmen

From Mr Piers Ashworth, QC

Sir, The United Kingdom has for many years been in desperate need of "businessmen" (in the widest sense of the term) in both the Government and the legislature. Politics is now virtually a full-time occupation, and politicians do not have the opportunity to acquire "business" experience. So when the Prime Minister is clever — or lucky — enough to persuade an eminent businessman to give up his lucrative career in order to apply his particular skills to government, it ought to be a matter for congratulation — not political carping.

One can always dream up potential conflicts of interest. Many of us face real conflicts in our daily lives. Of course Lord Simon of Highbury (letters, August 2) should not be put in the invidious position of having to make decisions directly impacting upon his personal interests (such as the award of contracts). But the interests of "business" (be it the oil industry or any other) are often the interests of the country; who better to advance the national interest than a person skilled in that business?

Why should businessmen who are prepared to give their services to the national interest be penalised by requiring them to divest themselves of their shares — often their major assets? Scandals arise when these are obtained or held secretly — not when all is open. Indeed there is much to be said for shares being held directly and not through trusts, particularly "blind" ones.

The question should be not whether a minister might conceivably be faced with a possible conflict of interest but whether he has the skills and experience to fulfil the duties of his office to the benefit of the nation. I have never (to my knowledge) met Lord Simon; but can there be any doubt as to the answer to that question?

Doubtless this Government will make mistakes, and the Opposition must be vigilant. But this campaign smacks of juvenile electioneering, of which the public is sick and tired. We must encourage "businessmen" in Parliament — not put fatuous obstacles in their way.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS ASHWORTH,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4A 3DF.

From Mr Tom Rees Jones

Sir, When the water industry was privatised I was invited to become a member of the local Ofwat consultative committee. I was pleased and a little flattered to be asked, and I accepted the offer. The position was unpaid and took up a fair amount of time. There were no perquisites and the lunches were not up to much either.

I was informed by the Director of Ofwat that not only should I be very cautious about my political affiliation but that I should immediately sell my very small holding of shares in Severn Trent plc. I readily agreed to both conditions.

Lord Simon has accepted political office and has a very large holding indeed in British Petroleum. In the interest of fairness, should he not give up either one or the other?

Yours faithfully,
TOM REES JONES,
18 Derwent Street, Draycott, Derby, August 2.

Lottery cash in London

From the Chairman of the London Arts Board

Sir, The Cultural Trends report from the Policy Studies Institute (details, July 29) suggests that, by giving 45 per cent of its money to London projects, the Arts Council is doing unfair to people in the regions. This view is potentially damaging, not only for London but for the nation as a whole.

London, like all great capitals, is the home of most of our national cultural institutions and many important smaller companies. It is the base for over 40 per cent of the country's artists and performers and for many of the related industries, earning millions of pounds in exports. The range and quality of artistic enterprise attracts artists of international standing and many visitors to London, and to the rest of Britain, from all over the world.

The report also comments on the inequitable distribution of National Lottery arts funds. This money is helping to rebuild many of London's ageing arts buildings. And so it should. The figures quoted in the Policy Studies Institute report, however, reflect an atypical period, the first year of the lottery funding when a handful of national companies received large grants. The reality is that London has some of the poorest areas in the country and for many Londoners the lottery has so far done little to meet their cultural and social needs.

London is an outstanding creative capital. This is a cause for celebration, needing confident policies and enlightened investment. Cultural development at a time of financial restraint requires sharper tools than the crude notion of a "fair share". Of course significant arts ventures should be encouraged and supported throughout the country, but if these are at the expense of London then everyone will lose in the long run.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR PHILLIPS, Chairman,
London Arts Board,
Elme House, 133 Long Acre, WC2E 6JL.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Search for an answer to gazumping

From Mr J. P. O'Brien

Sir, Your leading article of July 28, "A plague on their houses", rightly sheds doubt both on the Scottish system of binding agreements and an alternative deposit scheme as a means to put an end to gazumping in the property market.

In our view the Government's proposed overhaul will have no effect on the cost to house buyers. Indeed, the Scottish system might actually increase it, since, because an offer is binding if accepted, a purchaser must incur survey and legal fees before making an offer. If the offer is not accepted, the Scottish buyer will look for other properties, paying yet more survey and legal fees.

Equally, a deposit scheme that is voluntary will not attract the agents or individuals who are likely to consider gazumping, and it will offer the legal profession even more scope to argue over whether or not claims can be made against individual deposits.

There is a simple, commercial and effective answer. The number of gazumps is still a small percentage of the total number of purchases and if a substantial number take out a cheap insurance at far less cost than the proposed deposit, the relatively few who are victims can be immediately recompensed with their lost legal and survey fees.

This will not compensate for disappointment, but it will allow a frustrated buyer to get on with another purchase immediately, without breaking the fragile and impatient chain which is an essential part of most purchases.

Yours sincerely,
J. P. O'BRIEN,
Ross-Gower Ltd (insurance brokers),
Portoken House,
155-157 Minories, EC3 1JY.

From Mr Peter Brooks

Sir, Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, who is to review the procedures for buying and selling homes, states that she will be looking at "the frustrations and stresses facing people making probably the biggest purchase they will ever make in their lives" (report, July 28). Presumably she will also be looking at the Government's own contribution to these frustrations and stresses.

We regularly act for clients purchasing property in London and estimate that the main purchase costs of a £150,000 house in Wandsworth (for

example) would be as follows:

Our professional fees	£300
VAT on above	£52.50
Stamp duty	£1,500
Land Registry fee	£260
Local authority search	£125
Surveyors' fees	£125-1,000 + VAT

The majority of these costs are paid to government bodies rather than solicitors and any overhaul of the system should take account of that fact.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. BROOKS,
Bevans (solicitors),
155 Whiteladies Road,
Clifton, Bristol,
July 28.

From Mr Julian R. Gore

Sir, Buying or selling your home is not like buying a jar of instant coffee. What you get is not always what you see. The system in England and Wales works well for the very reason that it gives both parties time to reflect and to commit irrevocably to the transaction only when each of them is absolutely ready.

The flip side of the 50,000 people who were gazumped last year is that 50,000 people did not undersell their homes. The Government would be foolish indeed if due to populist pressure they subverted a system that has worked well for so long.

Yours truly,
JULIAN R. GORE,
Edwin Coe (solicitors),
2 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3ET.

From Mr D. H. Williams

Sir, Solicitors have been able to offer exclusivity agreements to clients for some time, although they are seldom used. These require sellers not to accept another offer from another party for a set period of time, usually 28 days. Buyers have reciprocal obligations to have any surveys effected without delay.

A well-publicised case of a buyer who had lost a property due to gazumping suing the solicitors who had failed to advise on the need for such an agreement would cause a speedy change. Solicitors might even be able to charge for such a service, and they would certainly enjoy an end to lectures from their clients about the beauty of the Scottish system.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. WILLIAMS (solicitor),
31 Wentworth Crescent, Swansea, July 28.

Maintaining universities' standards

From the President of the Association of University Teachers

Sir, In commenting on the Dearing report (leading article, "Price of knowledge", July 24) you say:

"If universities aspire to increased resources then they should be obliged to provide better value for them. That was the central and much needed message offered yesterday."

I simply cannot agree. Sir Ron Dearing affirmed that there has been no crisis of confidence in the universities. He stressed the OECD report, which praised their efficiency. He emphasised that:

"We are particularly concerned about planned further reductions in the unit of funding for higher education. If these are carried forward, it will have halved in 25 years. We believe that this would damage both the quality and effectiveness of higher education."

It is clear from the report that the crisis is a financial one which has been caused by years of underfunded expansion. The universities are still a national asset and continue to deliver quality education in spite of government neglect.

The Dearing committee is clearly proud of what the universities have achieved, and wishes to maintain quality. Perhaps, on reflection, you might share this view?

Yours sincerely,
P. K. BURGESS,
President,
Association of University Teachers,
Umbrose House,
9 Pembridge Road, W11.

From the Principal of Edwardes College, Peshawar

Sir, I strongly approve of the sentiments expressed by the principal of Concord College, Shrewsbury (letter, July 25; further letters, July 29), who suggests that now that UK students will be required to pay tuition fees they have every right to expect regular progress reports from their teachers.

Each year this college sends a number of bright students to British universities. They pay full-cost fees on

top of living costs that are high in relation to those in Pakistan. Many feel that some system of reporting is not much to expect for an outlay for tuition often in excess of £8,000 a year.

Britain has an outstanding reputation for providing high-quality education to students from all parts of the world. However, increasingly students are finding other countries can provide a similar quality at a lower cost. We must seek to continue the tradition of providing something of true excellence.

Yours faithfully,
R. BROOKE-SMITH,
Principal,
Edwardes College,
Peshawar, NWFP, Pakistan,
July 27.

From Dr Ross Anderson

Sir, Until a few years ago, the most able British students stayed on to do research. Now most of them cannot afford to. They graduate owing thousands of pounds, and feel compelled to take a "proper" job rather than a research studentship. The vacant research posts are quickly filled by foreign nationals.

For example, I have students from Korea, Pakistan, France, Italy and Greece, but none from Britain; my department has only 32 UK research students out of 93, and falling. Doubling the average graduate's debt will make matters rapidly worse.

If the Dearing report is implemented as it stands, then when the large numbers of university staff who are currently in their fifties retire, it will not be possible to replace all or even most of them with qualified UK nationals. Our foreign research student population of today will become the foreign faculty of tomorrow.

ROSS ANDERSON,
University of Cambridge
Computer Laboratory,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge.
ross.anderson@cam.ac.uk
July 23.

St Edmundsbury tower

From Mr David Cockram

Sir, Marcus Birney's report (July 26) unveiled a design for the tower of St Edmundsbury Cathedral by Hugh Mathew. The design had not been commissioned by, or indeed presented to, the Cathedral Council.

Mr Mathew's design is a confident and striking reworking of late medieval ideas — but from the illustration it appears to me to be a remodelling of a tower design rejected by the Millennium Commission a year ago. That

design incorporated a *fleche* (spire) — never popular locally — which Mr Mathew has replaced with a parapet and pinnacles.

Following wide consultation nationally and locally, the Cathedral Council is now working on plans for a less flamboyant tower, sketched by the late Stephen Dykes Bower in 1988 when cathedral architect.

This, it is hoped, will include a viewing gallery and disabled access.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COCKRAM
(Chairman of the
Fabric Advisory Committee),
St Edmundsbury Cathedral,
Angel Hill,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
July 31.

Letters for publication may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Lewis, Hoffmann and the wardrobe

From Mr David Hunt

Sir, May I submit that a more intriguing aspect of *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* than the womb symbolism suggested in your Diary (July 28) is that C. S. Lewis evidently plagiarised the basic idea from one of the tales of Hoffmann.

In both the Narnia chronicles and E. T. A. Hoffmann's *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* a child climbs into a large wardrobe, passes through all the hanging clothes to the far side where a bright light reveals an enchanted vista of a wooded landscape under snow, and where various fantastic creatures will be encountered.

Pure coincidence?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
8 Ladbroke Gardens, W11,
July 31.

From Mr Julian Cohen

Sir, I was interested to read that entry into C. S. Lewis's wardrobe (letter, July 31) is considered by some to be either a return to the womb or an escape from it.

I had always assumed it to be generally accepted that the wardrobe represents death: the entry into it death itself; and the world beyond that opens out to the protagonists, life after death. That is consistent with Lewis's other work.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN COHEN,
67 Athenaeum Road, N20,
August 1.

Cricket and sledging

From Mr Leo Vita-Finzi

Sir, I rather think that the decline in behavioural standards of our schoolboy cricketers (reports and leading article, August 2) is as much to do with the influence of British cricketing culture from on high as that of visiting Australian and South African teams.

I remember Derek Randall toffing his cap cheekily to the snorting Lillie (who had just bounced him a glancing blow on the bone) or Botham grinning from ear to ear relishing a challenge. Now schoolboys watching our senior national team must think the way to react to adversity is to seek to emulate or exceed one's opponents in their own style of play — whether this involves "sledging" (Australia) or merely mean-spirited efficiency (those Australians again) at which we generally fail. Honorable exceptions are Gough, Hussain and Crawley.

By the way, when I was a schoolboy, just 15 years ago, any player sledging would simply have been dropped from the team.

Yours faithfully,

LEO VITA-FINZI,
Scott's Hill, Fenstead End,
Buxted, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
August 2.

From Mr Jeremy Potter

Sir, Henry Newbolt's reaction to sledging by public school cricketers might indeed have been an anguished gasp, as you supposed in today's leading article. When he played the game at Clifton in the 1870s, the Close he later immortalised was probably the poorest cricket ground in England.

It was then the custom for good play by visiting teams to be applauded, while similar feats by the school's own XI were received in well-mannered silence. Applause for the home team was considered "bad form" because it might upset or embarrass the opposition, who were the school's guests.

I wonder whether there is any example of such forbearance in sport today?

Yours truly,
JEREMY POTTER,
The Old Pinery,
Larkins Lane, Headington, Oxford,
August 2.

From Mr David Prockter

Sir, Nobody should be surprised at the decline in behavioural standards in school cricket matches: it is the inevitable outcome of a change in concept of what sport is and what it is for. As a step towards the wider acknowledgement of this fact, might I offer the following revised version:

And when your one great sponsor comes to justify his cost but if you won or lost.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROCKTER,
36 London Road,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
August 2.

Sporting psalms

From the Reverend Dr T. Bradshaw

Sir, While not in favour of wholesale changes to our valiant Test match XI, a couple of texts may be appropriate, from the Headingley experience: "They have hands, but they handle not" (Psalm 115, 7); with a New Testament accompaniment — "... they roll not, neither do they spin" (Matthew vi, 28).

Yours faithfully,
TIM BRADSHAW,
54 St Giles, Oxford,
August 1.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM BURROUGHS

William S. Burroughs, author of *The Naked Lunch*, died on August 2 aged 83. He was born on February 5, 1914.

William Burroughs saw himself as a campaigner against destruction of the self by all the agents that he believed were conspiring to depersonalise it. His metaphor for this was junk addiction. By junk, the one-time drug-addict meant anything that put a person's life beyond his or her control. He saw the world in the despairing terms of addiction and fragmentation of the psyche, and his vision made him one of the most controversial writers of the second half of the century. Described as "the big daddy of the Beats", he influenced much of the "underground" of the 1950s which became the mainstream of the 1960s, from Norman Mailer and Anthony Burgess to Allen Ginsberg and R. D. Laing.

William Seward Burroughs was born in St Louis, Missouri, into the family of a famous industrialist. At Harvard during the New Deal years he studied poetry, ethnology and yoga, and gained a reputation for his wide-ranging knowledge. He travelled in Europe, studying medicine at Vienna University, and returned to Harvard to study postgraduate anthropology. He then rejected the bourgeois academic and scholarly life and entered the *demi monde* that was to shape his life.

Rejected for the US Army, he went through a variety of jobs, including those of private detective, pest controller, bartender, factory and office worker, advertising and "the edge of crime". It was a good training for a writer of his social range and peculiar gifts of mimicry. He developed his first drug habit at this time, and its frightening effects became central to his life and work. His experiences of drugs, crime and the police were fully documented in his first book, *Junkie: Confessions of an Unredeemed Drug Addict* (1953), published under the pseudonym William Lee.

Addiction and withdrawal or cure were the central metaphors of his career. His concern with the analysis of power was based largely on his drug-dependence and concomitant dependence on pushers, and on his antagonism to narcotics agents.

After some time in New Orleans and Texas, he made anthropological journeys to South America in search of alien cultures and new varieties of drugs. In the later 1950s he lived in Tangier, and after a crisis there in 1956 he underwent the apomorphine cure under Dr John Yerkow in London. *The Naked Lunch* (1959), his most famous book, was written largely in Tangier afterwards. "I awoke from the sickness at the age of forty-five," he wrote, "calm and sane, and in reasonably good health except for a weakened liver and the look of borrowed flesh common to all who survive the sickness."

The Naked Lunch — an aleatory, anarchic fantasy about addiction and homosexuality — was acclaimed by Norman Mailer and Robert Lowell, but its monotonous and nauseating violence, scatological and sadism ensured that it was banned in America until



1962. It did not appear in Britain until 1964, by which time the failure of the *Lady Chatterley* case had freed publishing from most taboos. Like other "underground" writers, such as Henry Miller and Samuel Beckett, Burroughs was published by Olympia Press in Paris, Grove Press in America and John Calder in Britain. But Burroughs was no Beckett. While Beckett became famous for his fastidiousness about words, Burroughs used them casually, flippantly, and without compassion.

His ideas were shocking but shallow. "The whole system is completely wrong and heading for unimaginable disasters," he said. He claimed that there was a "necessity of deconditioning people from their whole past", and argued that "words are thought control". For a writer, who must begin with the inherited resources of language, this wholesale rejection was not promising.

His major theme was power as the manipulation of pleasure and pain in the human body. Around him he saw a systematic degradation in which

people willingly submitted to becoming hosts of the parasites of rule. His targets were gangsters, judges, doctors, psychiatrists, policemen and servicemen. Fake sacrifices and cures, phony panaceas and causes were his satirical targets, and yet he believed that people volunteered for exploitation. His work may have been a warning against the nature of power, but he saw human beings as irrevocably addicted to victimisation by their overlords.

The Naked Lunch was followed by *The Soft Machine* (1961, final version 1968), *The Ticket That Exploded* (1962) and *Nova Express* (1964). Julian Symonds's review of *The Soft Machine* summed up Burroughs's world: "The lovers bicker each other desperately, have nightmares in which they are violated by centipedes, and endure painful fantasies about the terminal erections of a hanged man. Out of the dirt, the excrement, the couplings, the repetitious confusion with which they are described, Burroughs makes a kind of dismal and disgusting urban poetry."

The confusion and repetition stemmed from Burroughs's "cut-up" method, which involved slicing up his typescripts and reassembling them — techniques demonstrated in two books of examples, *The Exterminator* (1960), written with Brion Gysin, and *Minutes To Go* (1960), written with Brion Gysin, Sinclair Beiles and Gregory Corso). This form of dislocation was supposedly influenced by film and recording methods, but after *Finnegans Wake* and Gertrude Stein it was perhaps not so revolutionary and exciting as was made out.

Burroughs's subsequent career was spent between Tangier, Paris, New York and London, the main scenes of what Mary McCarthy called his carnival world. His experiences of South America emerged in *The Yage Letters* (1963), written to Allen Ginsberg, who contributed a letter of his own, and Burroughs also wrote of his drug experiences in a number of articles, the most significant of which was "Deposition: Testimony Concerning a Sickness" (1960).

Newspaper column formats and ticker-tape structures appear in his *Time* (1965) and again in *Apo-33 Bulletin A Metabolic Regulator* (1967), which sought a way to re-establish individuality in the face of ideologies, miseducation and advertising.

Burroughs wrote a large number of shorter fictional pieces and articles on drug addiction and cure, but never, despite the popular myth, encouraged the indiscriminate use of drugs. He was, however, deeply interested in transformations of consciousness through both drugs and meditation. For a while he associated with Scientologists, in order to discover whether their methods were useful for the development of the self. His criticism of all such educational programmes, plus some account of his own schemes for re-training the mind and body, are contained in the conversations of *The Job* (1970). *The Wild Boys* (1972) imagines a youth organisation which has gained sole political power, a Spenglerian coming of the New Barbarians, self-generative and asexual.

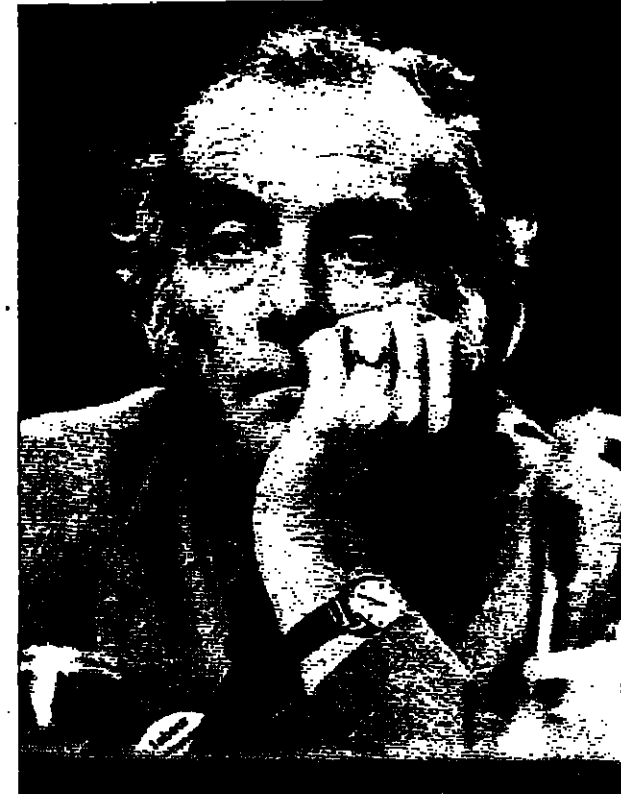
His film script *The Last Words of Dutch Schultz* (1970) is based on the delirious dying testimony of the celebrated gangster, and reflects Burroughs's lifelong interest in cinema (he took part in two films based on his own work) and in the criminally pathological mind.

In his later work, science fiction techniques extended his vision of perpetual terrestrial strife into galactic conflicts, but in the 1970s his reputation and readership began to decline. His style and compositional method had been highly influential, but were more and more evidently one of modernism's cult-decad. The Burroughs family fortune had been based on the invention of the adding machine, but although he continued to write and publish into his eighties, it is unclear what it all added up to.

William Burroughs married Joan Vollmer in 1945, but in Mexico in 1951 he accidentally shot her, reportedly while playing William Tell. His son died in 1981.

ALEX KITSON

Alex Kitson, Deputy General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, 1981-86, died on August 2 aged 75. He was born on October 21, 1921.



ALEX KITSON was one of the nearly men of union politics. Although he played a considerable part in moving both the Scottish TUC and the Scottish Labour Party steadily to the left in the 1960s and the early 1970s, he never formally rose beyond being number two to Moss Evans in Transport House, then the Smith Square headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union. But he was for a long time an influential figure in the councils of the Labour Party, serving on its National Executive Committee for 18 years, 1968-86, and chairing the annual conference in 1981.

Something of a firebrand in his youth, Alexander Harper Kitson fought his way up in the rugged school of Scottish industrial politics. As a member of the Scottish Commercial Motorists' Union, and an employee of the St Cuthbert's Co-operative Society, he started out driving a milk-float around Edinburgh — early years that became part of national folklore, since his apprentice on the round was the future James Bond, Sean Connery. (It used to amuse Kitson, in his last public incarnation as chairman of Lothian Region Transport Board, to announce that he had been personally responsible for seeing to it that the multi-millionaire Connery got his bus pass.)

Although his last years as an active trade unionist were spent in London — effectively becoming boss of the T&GJU during Moss Evans's long illness in 1981 — Kitson's power base always lay in Scotland. His own union, the Scottish Motorists (of which he served as general secretary for 12 years) did not amalgamate with the T&G until 1971, and by then Kitson had succeeded in forming a number of local alliances — notably with two Scottish Communists, Mick McGahey

and the National Union of Mineworkers and Harry Wypers, the Scottish secretary of the T&G.

For a time Kitson himself was widely suspected of at least fellow-travelling tendencies — an impression that he did little to dissipate by first comparing Britain unfavourably with the Soviet Union and then choosing to end a speech delivered in Moscow in 1977 with the words: "Long live the October Revolution!" At home he was much involved in such events as the 1979 "winter of discontent" — and not always as helpfully as members of the Callaghan Government (and particularly its Transport Secretary, Bill Rodgers) would have liked.

But the truth was that Kitson had been handed an unenviable job, having been put in charge of co-ordinating all the picketing during what was in effect a nationwide strike on the part of lorry and truck drivers. He was one of those who warned heavily against any declaration of a state of emergency, advice that, perhaps weakly

and unwisely, the Government took.

Kitson once nearly got into hot water with the Commons Privileges Committee for threatening to withdraw all financial support from T&G-sponsored Labour MPs who were pro-European, but in later years he was seen to mellow. He became part of the "soft Left" majority which Neil Kinnock established on the National Executive Committee very soon after his election as leader in 1983. Having been chairman of the party's international sub-committee since 1982, he was also instrumental in organising the clean sweep that removed all the important "hard Left" sub-committee chairmen.

Thinking better of running against Ron Todd, he retired in 1986. He returned to Edinburgh, where he had always kept a house, and joined the Lothian Region Transport Board as a director that same year (he became the board's chairman in 1990).

His wife Ann died earlier this year, and he is survived by two daughters.

STANLEY PAVILLARD

Stanley Septimus Pavillard, MBE, medical officer on the Burma-Thailand Railway, 1942-45, died in Brighton on July 24 aged 84. He was born in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands on January 19, 1913.



THE contribution Stanley Pavillard made to the welfare of his fellow prisoners of war in Japanese captivity was twofold. First, he skilfully improvised medical care, though he had only the most primitive instruments and the minimum of medical supplies. The men in his camp were suffering from cholera, dysentery, tropical ulcers and the deficiency diseases which resulted from the Japanese decision to keep them on rations that sustained life but not health.

Secondly, at great personal risk, he sent the British Government an account of the desperate circumstances in which the prisoners on the Burma-Thailand Railway found themselves in June 1943, when the monsoon season began. His appeal for help was the first intimation the Allied governments had of the conditions in which the prisoners were held; in disbelief, the Dutch government-in-exile asked for assurance that the information was genuine.

The men of Pavillard's battalion in Thailand were of mixed origin — European, Commonwealth and Eurasian — but with his expansive personality and good humour, he transcended divisions of race and rank, and helped to

bind the unit together. In the preface to Pavillard's account of his experiences, *Bambo Doctor* (1960), Sir William Goode, who shared much of the captivity and was later Governor of Singapore, described the respect in which Pavillard was held: "In his book he tells much of the story of those days. But he has not brought out the faith we all had in him, our confidence that if he was there, things would be all right."

Stanley Septimus Pavillard was the seventh son of Victor Eugene Pavillard, a British subject of Swiss descent, and his Spanish wife, Susana. He was educated at Liverpool Institute and Ellesmere College, Shropshire. In 1939 he qualified in general medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

Pavillard volunteered for war service in 1940, and was appointed to a civilian medical post in Penang, Malaysia, which carried with it the position of medical officer of the local volunteer force. He

soon transferred to Singapore, where he became a full-time medical officer. A secondment to the Bedong Group Hospital was cut short after a matter of days when the Japanese arrived, and Pavillard was captured in Singapore on February 15, 1942. His earliest task as a prisoner of war was to assist at the Alexandra Hospital in the aftermath of the massacre by the Japanese of Allied medical staff and patients. In October 1942 he accompanied a battalion of 650 prisoners of war to Thailand, spending 12 months in the jungle camps on the Burma-Thailand Railway, and then working in the base camps until his release in 1945.

Between 1946 and 1955, he was in private practice in Singapore, where many of his first patients were men who had endured captivity alongside him in Thailand. Later, in 1956, he received from the University of Madrid the medical qualifications that enabled him to practise in Las Palmas until his retirement in 1969. In 1943 he came to live in England, latterly at St Dunstan's, Brighton. He was a familiar figure at reunions of prisoners of war, and he was much fettered in 1995 at the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war with Japan.

In 1947 he was appointed MBE for his services as a prisoner of war and in the following year he received the Territorial Decoration.

He was married in 1950 to Irene Templeton, who died in 1992. He is survived by their three daughters.

BAO DAI

Bao Dai, Vietnam's last Emperor, died in Paris on July 31 aged 83. He was born in Hue on October 22, 1913.

BAO DAI was a pleasure-seeker and a playboy who was also sometimes credited with being a Vietnamese patriot. But at the time of his death it was nearly 42 years since he had left his country, and his luxurious exile in France could hardly help being contrasted with the suffering, bloush and misery of his fellow citizens in the four decades that followed his being deposed in 1955.

The 13th and last monarch of the Nguyen dynasty, which reigned in Vietnam for four centuries, Bao Dai ruled as Vietnam's puppet sovereign for 20 years. He first abdicated in 1945 after the bold proclamation of the Republic of Vietnam by the future leader of North Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, who was attempting to forestall the return of the French colonialists after Japan's wartime occupation. In 1949, Bao Dai returned to Vietnam and declared the

country an anti-communist state under French colonial rule, with himself as head of state, though not using the style of Emperor.

Six years later, following the withdrawal of the French after Ho's victory at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, Bao Dai was finally deposed in a referendum organised by his own Prime Minister, the American-backed autocrat Ngo Dinh Diem, who himself was later murdered in a coup in which Washington acquiesced. (This was the coup in November 1962 that can be seen with the benefit of hindsight to have set off the chain of disasters for the Americans that finally led to the capture of Saigon — now Ho Chi Minh City — in 1975.)

A fleshy-faced, well-built but good-natured man, whose real name was Nguyen Vinh Thuy, Vietnam's last hereditary Emperor took the imperial title Bao Dai, meaning "Voice of Authority". He was born in the ancient imperial capital of Hue, but raised and educated in France from the age of nine.

He succeeded to the throne



when he was 13, after the death of his father, the Emperor Khai Dinh, but he did not take up the reins of government until he had completed his French education six years later. Returning to Vietnam, he declared: "I have decided to use all my power to make this country evolve, and to promote the path of progress and civilisation."

His lifestyle was a sharp contrast to that of the austere elderly Communist apparition who ruled Vietnam now. It was full of luxury and exotic

living. The young Emperor was a keen elephant-hunter in Vietnam's Central Highlands, the area that was later to be most heavily bombed by the Americans and sprayed with the defoliant Agent Orange.

Bao Dai was a rich man in his own right and, after smuggling most of his fortune out of his country, he was, in the early years of his exile, a very heavy, but extremely discreet, gambler on the French Riviera. He patronised the baccarat tables and his bids, which usually ranged between £500 and £500, were always placed for him by his secretary. He sometimes played himself, too, but in order to maintain his relative anonymity this was only at off-peak hours, usually between 5 and 7pm. He had made his fortune during the earlier wars in Indo-China, thanks to the favourable and artificial rate of exchange between the Indo-Chinese piastre and the French franc.

"The Emperor of Carnes", as he later became known, had a passion for motor-cars and motorcycle racing. His five motorcycles were a legacy

of his racing days, and his stable of cars included a black Bentley, which he drove himself, an Alfa-Romeo, a Rolls-Royce and a Mercedes.

Though a weak man and averse to making decisions, he was not callous and his friends insisted that he suffered for his people despite — or perhaps because of — the luxury of his comfortable existence. When fighting first erupted in Saigon at the time of the Tet offensive in 1968, Bao Dai chose not to venture out of his 20-room chateau near Cannes. This caused chagrin among local pleasure-seekers, but was meant to indicate the concern he felt for the fate of those in his distant and unhappy homeland.

In exile he converted from Buddhism to Roman Catholicism, but long after moving to France he cherished impossible dreams of a return to his throne. He was twice married. His first wife, the daughter of a Saigon mandarin whom he married in 1933, died in 1963. His second wife was French. He had two sons and four daughters from the first marriage.

Latest wills

Philip James White, of Lezayre, Isle of Man, left estate valued at £1,585,103 net.
Barbara Rollason, of Clun-gunford, Craven Arms, Shropshire, left estate valued at £5,439,884 net.
She left £13,000 to Age Concern England, and to the RNIB.
Alan Westley, of Northampton, left estate valued at £3,840,641 net.
Doris Agnes Mary Richmond, of Folkestone, Kent, left estate valued at £3,297,025 net.
Olive Barbara Coggins, of West Bridgford, Nottingham, left estate valued at £2,368,095 net.
She left £2,000 each to Edwina Parish Church, Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Royal Midlands Institution for the Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Imperial Cancer Research Fund.
Mary Liddbury, of Brushford, Dulverton, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,506,035 net.
Jack Single, barrister, of

London SW5, left estate valued at £2,414,890 net.
He left £10,000 to the Saville Club and to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust; £5,000 each to Winchester College, Cancer Research Campaign, Anthony's and Rheumatism Council, British Heart Foundation, Oxfam, National Trust, Lady Mary's Nursing Home and Wadham College, Oxford; £2,000 to Shaftesbury Homes, and Kensington Housing Trust.
Marjorie Ashfield, of Broomfield, Bury, left estate valued at £1,042,205 net.
John Noel Barrett-Evans, of Coventry, left estate valued at £952,174 net.
He left shares in his residuary estate for musical scholarship at St Edmund's School, Canterbury, in thanks and memory for his education there, 1934-1942.
Geoffrey Cleveland Jackson Butterfield, of Lyndhurst, Hampshire, left estate val-

ued at £1,318,983 net.
He left £1,000 each to NSPCC, RSPCA, RNIB, RNLI, Samaritans, Help the Aged, RNLI, St Peter's Church, Bramshaw and Guide Dogs for the Blind.
Stewart Anderson Chadwick, company director, of Barnford, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,659,615 net.
Jeffrey Cohen, of Chigwell, Essex, left estate valued at £1,162,988 net.
Bruce Lusk Cooper, of Keswick, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,679,860 net.
He left £2,000 each to the Cumbrian Association of Boys' Clubs, Cumbria County Council, Keswick and Guide Dogs for the Blind; £1,500 to the RNLI; £1,000 to Portsmouth Village Hall Committee; £500 each to Keswick Hospital Nurses' Committee Fund, RSPCA and Keswick Agricultural Society.
Ronald James Foord, of Epsom, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,302,966 net.

Anna Rosa Forster, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,592,496 net.
Robert Winston Harrington, of Little Hooles, Preston, left estate valued at £1,005,132 net.
Sidney William Hibbs, of London NW11, left estate valued at £1,022,541 net.
He left £5,000 to the United Grand Lodge of England to set up two scholarships; £5,000 to the Prayer Book Society; £1,000 each to benevolent funds of Pauline Lodge No 4924 and Pauline Chapter No 4924 and to the Concert Artists Association. He also left shares in his residuary estate to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.
Frederick Anthony James Jansson, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,373,542 net.
He left £2,500 to the Harrison Homes for the Elderly.
Alice Lucas, of Cockermouth, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,149,435 net.
Kenneth Willis Mason, of East Preston, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,339,464 net.

JOSEPH CONRAD

A PHILOSOPHER OF THE SEA

His proper name was Joseph Conrad Korzeniowski, and he was born in the Ukraine in 1857 of a Polish landed family. His father, a man of letters who translated Shakespeare into Polish, became involved in the Polish rebellion of 1863, and was banished to Vologda. He returned, however, for the last year and a half of his life to Cracow, where his son Joseph passed his boyhood.

At an early age his passion for literature disclosed itself. "I was a reading boy," he recounted later in life. "I read, what I did not read." But he not only read; he dreamed. His dreams were of the far spaces of the globe; there is a tale that he pointed, when he was a child, to the unmarked tracks in Central Africa on an atlas of the time, declaring, "When I grow up I will go there." But it was the sea that became an ever stronger lure as he approached manhood: he must be a sailor, and an English sailor, too. He was 19 when he found his way to

ON THIS DAY

August 4, 1924

In this obituary notice, Conrad was described as one of the most remarkable examples of a writer who has adorned a language that was not his own by birth or upbringing.

Marseilles and made his first voyage to the Gulf of Mexico. He worked on two French ships, and then, having joined the crew of an English steamer on her voyage to the Azov Sea, came back with her to Lowestoft, and thus reached his second fatherland.

By 1884 he was a master in the British merchant service, and had reached the goal he had set himself. Before another ten years had passed he had tasted all the varieties of sea-life and steeped himself in the enchantments of

the tropical lands that haunted his imagination from childhood. Together with this hoarded knowledge, he had learned English seamanship and, also, of necessity, the English language. Only the spark was needed now to fire in creative energy this triple acquisition. In some biographical notes that received his sanction he is said to have "dropped somewhat casually into the literary life, partly as a result of illness, partly through his friendship with John Galsworthy and the prompting of Edward Garnett." That "casually" can only refer to the occasion. It was, perhaps, a chance that this or that stimulus sent Conrad to pen and paper. But that there lay deep in him the compulsion to expend himself in writing, he confessed in his book "Some Reminiscences", published in 1912. He speaks there of "a hidden, obscure necessity". He speaks, too, revealingly of "a sentiment akin to pity which prompted me to render in words assembled with conscientious care the memory of things far distant and of men who had lived."

NEWS

Britannia granted costly reprieve

■ Taxpayers' money will be required to keep the Royal Yacht *Britannia* afloat despite a pledge by ministers yesterday to finance a £50 million refit entirely from the private sector. Justifying the move, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, said on GMTV's *Sunday* programme yesterday: "If you're going to have a Royal Family, let them have proper modes of transport." Page 1

Inquiry into Labour MP's death

■ Tony Blair has ordered an investigation into the death last week of a Labour MP who left a suicide note which blamed two senior party colleagues for a whispering campaign which could have contributed to his death. A copy of the two-page letter, which was written by Gordon McMaster whose body was found slumped behind the wheel of his car in the garage of his home, has been passed to the Labour chief whip. Page 1

Cook to leave wife Poor roll of dice

The Labour leadership launched a damage-limitation exercise after it was disclosed that Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, was leaving his wife to live with his Commons secretary. Page 2

'President' Dana

Dana, who found fame by winning the Eurovision Song Contest, may enter the competition to be Ireland's next president. Page 3

CJD victim

The latest victim of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which scientists have linked with eating beef, used to live in Merstham, Kent, near where the first "mad cow" was identified. Page 4

Rank 'outsiders'

An Army officer will today propose scrapping the "class" system under which the Armed Forces are largely run by public schoolboys. Page 6

Reign of change

The world Queen Victoria left on her death after 64 years on the throne was a vastly different place to that she inherited on her accession aged 18. Page 7

Not so busy bees

Breeders want to restore the racial purity of the native honey bee. Foreign strains have created string-happy bees that are becoming less productive. Page 8

Desperate England call up teenager

■ England's hard-pressed cricket selectors have turned to 19-year-old Ben Hollis, the Melbourne-born Surrey all rounder who came to Britain with his family when he was six, in their search for someone to help them to beat Australia in the fifth Test starting in Nottingham on Thursday. England must win to keep alive their chances of winning the Ashes. Page 1



Fundraisers for Ford Prison make a splash with their giant jumbo — all part of a Bognor Birdman charity event yesterday

College rail: Go-Ahead is considering

launching a train service linking Oxford and Cambridge on a new network that is set to become the first long-distance railway built in Britain for 95 years. Page 44

Youthful advice: Ed Balls, the 30-

year-old former financial journalist, is expected to be named as a member of Gordon Brown's new American-style council of economic advisers. Page 44

Water payouts: Customers of

North West Water contributed £93 each last year to dividends paid by the group to its parent company, United Utilities. Page 44

Trolley bank: Sainsbury's Bank

has won over £600 million in deposits in six months. Page 44

Melvyn Bragg: 'Coleridge's attitude

to his children was very like that of today's New Fathers. Indeed, much of the current practice regarding children can be traced back to the philosophy of Romanticism." Page 16

Literary lions: The man who wrote

the book of Spielberg's *E.T.* is back in the public eye with a novel about a bear who achieves fame as a writer. Page 16

Folklore legacy: The Kirov Ballet

stages a programme of works devoted to the choreographer Mikhail Fokine, although not all goes according to plan. Page 17

Irish festival: There were plenty of

surprises to be had at the Galway Arts Festival. Page 17

Plague fear: Anjana Ahuja talks to

a professor who has spent years studying insect-borne diseases. "Perhaps London will become malarious again," he says. Page 13

Gender alert: Some chemicals, harm-

less on their own, form a "gender-bending" cocktail when mixed, claim scientists. Page 13

Crimebusting: Throwing the bones

is as important as carrying a pistol when it comes to fighting crime in South Africa's outlying areas. Sam Kiley reports. Page 14

Staying power: "I feel I've made a

contribution," Martin Amis — hard at work on another novel — talks to Jason Cowley, who tries to work out the 47-year-old writer's position in the literary universe. Page 15

Athletics: Michael Johnson, the

Olympic champion at 400 metres, almost missed out on the semi-finals at the world championships in Athens. Pages 24, 25

Football: Manchester United won

the first domestic trophy of the season when they beat Chelsea 4-2 in the FA Charity Shield. Pages 23, 27

Motorcycling: Carl Fogarty finally

answered the craving of a 75,000 crowd at Brands Hatch yesterday in winning the second race of a chaotic world superbike meeting. Page 28

Golf: Joakim Haeggman strolled to

a convincing victory in the Volvo Scandinavian Masters. Page 35

Rugby league: Wigan Warriors

were thrashed 50-10 by Canberra Raiders in the world club championship yesterday. Page 28

Cricket: Warwickshire moved back

to the top of the Axa Life League by beating Sussex in a rain-affected game at Edgbaston. Page 36

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

THE VICTORIANS

Day Two of the

Victorian Britain series

profiles our longest

reigning monarch

LAW

Controversy about a

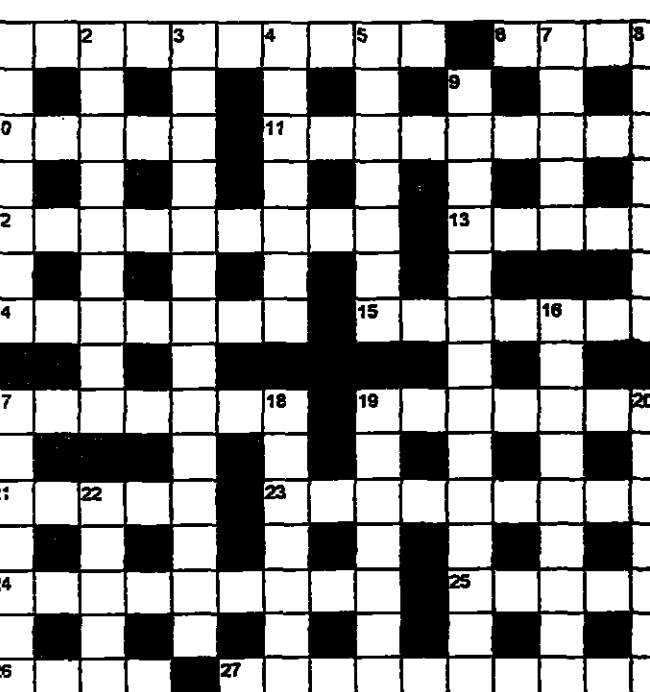
failure to prosecute, talk

of urgent inquiries: what

is going on at the CPS?



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,549



ACROSS

- 1 Plot to associate jailbirds with main robbery (10).
- 6 Insect making us take to our heels, say (4).
- 10 To which the raven added more? Not at all (5).
- 11 One living on 21 could get lost in Alps with staff (9).
- 12 Closely watching supporters (9).
- 13 A king and queen as shown in a tapestry (5).
- 14 Withdraw most of leftist pamphlet (7).
- 15 Brief, like the warmer months, by the sound of it (7).
- 17 Electra complex found in some tarts (7).
- 19 Line up again for compensation (7).
- 21 Between the lines, spot woman in uniform (5).
- 23 Religious work accepted by saintly characters without hesitation (9).

DOWN

- 24 Trade absorbs capital right away — an indicator of change (9).
- 25 Lived with newly-wed lieutenant (5).
- 26 Couple reportedly providing part of curate's meal (4).
- 27 Refer to rise arranged for one interested in promotion (10).
- 1 Talk together about island, making us pine, perhaps (7).
- 2 Record includes ballroom dance, not a short piano piece (9).
- 3 Newspaper section honouring Nelson alone? (8,6).
- 4 Traveller runs into endless extra written work (7).
- 5 Completely fills wards (7).
- 7 In a word, Debussy's work is less convincing (5).
- 8 General pardon for men working in a place of debauchery (7).
- 9 Physically challenged robber taking money in arcade? (3,5,6).
- 16 Proficiency Head displayed, taking over a small part of school (9).
- 17 Young fellow looked up to in furniture store? (7).
- 18 After great physician turns up, Edward is discharged (7).
- 19 Postpone delivery of book (7).
- 20 Unscrupulous lawyer more difficult when defending devout person (7).
- 22 Small vessel crosses river, producing ill-felling (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,548 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

Lancaster Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0230 404 990
UK Roads - All regions 0230 401 490
Roads 102 and 103 0230 401 490
Roads 104 and 105 0230 401 490
Roads 106 and 107 0230 401 490
Roads 108 and 109 0230 401 490
Roads 110 and 111 0230 401 490
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TODAY IN THE

TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

THE WORLD'S FASTEST MAN

Rob Hughes and David Powell catch the sprint stars in Athens
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Holloakes in tandem to face Australia in fifth Test
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County reports and cricket's strategy
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GREY DAY AT GATCOMBE

Thrilling victory for Andrew Hoy in the British Open
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 4 1997

CHARITY SHIELD TRIUMPH CAN HERALD NEW ERA OF SUCCESS

Captain Keane takes over the helm

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

DIFFERENT face, similar character, same old story. At Wembley yesterday, Roy Keane, successor to the departed Eric Cantona, led Manchester United for the first time in a "competitive" capacity and took up where the enigmatic Frenchman had left off — with a victory.

It might have been the FA Littlewoods Charity Shield, and only after a 4-2 penalty shoot-out win against Chelsea, but Keane's smile told a tale of expectation as he collected the trophy. This could be the first of many: the king is dead, long live the king.

Keane and Cantona share many images, mostly of a brittle, easily inflamed nature, but the inspirational qualities that lie within are undoubted. Keane was exemplary on his debut, apart from a careless foot in the face of Gustavo Poyet, the Chelsea midfielder player, and produced everything asked of him by Alex Ferguson, his manager.

"Roy is the best all-round player in the game," Ferguson said. "He hasn't trained much this week but his interceptions

and tackling around the box, especially near the end of the match, were tremendous. He has got all the right ingredients to be a great captain. It did seem a bit strange without Eric, but that was a great era and we have to move on."

Keane, the Ireland midfielder player, also made a brief, parting mention of the Cantona years. "Eric will be missed, of course he will," he said, "but life goes on. It is a great honour to play for United and also to be given the armband. It's nice to pick up a trophy so soon and, hopefully, this is the first of many."

Neither Ferguson nor Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, were impressed by a fractured, occasionally fractious, affair which finished 1-1 to force the shoot-out. "There was a lot of carelessness by both teams," Ferguson said. "We've had a tiring pre-season programme, with a lot of travelling, but we've got a week now before our first league game and we'll be ready by then."

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Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, celebrates after playing a vital role in his side's victory on penalties at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

ATHLETICS: BRITISH MEDAL HOPE RECOVERS AFTER SHAKY START IN HEPTATHLON AS TRIPLE JUMPER MAKES OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

Lewis is poised to mount challenge

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE contest to decide the world's best all-round woman athlete, Denise Lewis, of Great Britain, forced her way back into contention last night after three of the seven events of the heptathlon at the world championships in Athens. Lewis, the Commonwealth champion who is seeking her first world title, brought back memories of the Atlanta Olympic Games flooding back as she made an uncertain start, but she may yet do better than her Olympic bronze medal.

Although Lewis was fifth after three events, she is arguably the best second-day competitor in the field and a medal was looking a strong possibility as they went to their blocks for the 200 metres in the last event of the opening day. However, Sabine Braun, from Germany, was showing the degree of form that has been missing from her lately, but which took her to the 1991 world championship gold medal and to two European titles.

Braun was leading by 116 points, but only 36 points separated Remigia Nazaroviene, from Lithuania, in second place and Lewis, in fifth place. Braun had scored 3,072. Nazaroviene, 29, with Natalya Sazanovich, from Belarus, third on 2,950. Irina Vostrikova, from Russia, on 2,926 and Lewis on 2,920.

Speaking from Crete last week, where she had been training, Lewis had said that she had been rehearsing an early-morning start by getting up at dawn and making sure that she was out on the training track by 5am. She was not, she said, "the best person early in the morning". So it proved yesterday.

It seems hard on heptathletes that their first event carries the greatest potential for catastrophe. The challenge can be over almost before it has begun. The 100 metres hurdles is an uncompromising test of power, technique and speed, offering no second chance. Competitors are permitted three attempts in each of the four field events and, in the other two track races, the 200 and 800 metres, there is little chance of tripping or stumbling.

Lewis, who was in her blocks at Sam local time yesterday, looked wide-eyed and awake as she shot out to lead Braun over the early flights. However, as the German began to apply the pressure, Lewis seemed to catch sight of her opponent in her peripheral vision and it threw

her. She flattened the seventh hurdle and, in turn, it nearly flattened her.

"I was pleased to keep my feet," Lewis said. In the circumstances, the gain of staying in the race seemed to outweigh the losses: recording 13.43sec, she was 0.25sec slower than her personal best and 0.11sec outside the time she ran in Goetzis, Austria, two months ago, when she set her British record. It was a poor start, but not cataclysmic.

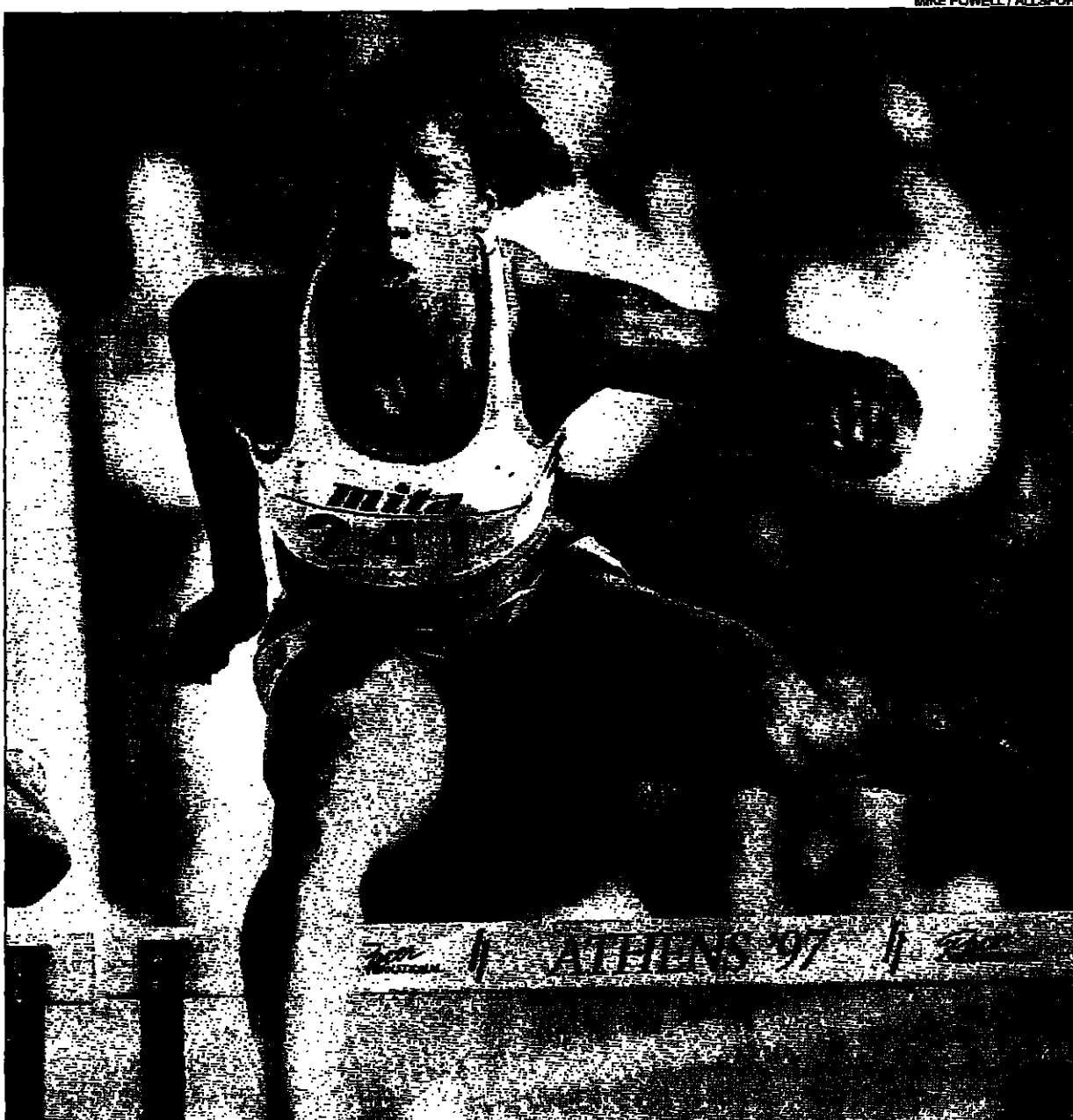
Lewis's recovery in the Olympic Games last year, when she was in eighth place after five events, but retrieved a bronze medal, had taught her that one bitter pill need not leave a lasting taste. In the high jump and shot, the second and third events, the Briton proved, as she said beforehand, that she was better prepared than ever.

Her greatest triumph of the first day came when, facing her last attempt at 1.81 metres in the high jump, she went clear. Leaping to her feet, she punched the air with both fists. After continuing and jumping 1.84 metres, equalising her personal best, the importance of that success to her, given the form of her two main opponents, became increasingly apparent. Braun jumped 1.90 metres and Sazanovich 1.84. Sazanovich had shown as much character as Lewis, more in fact, clearing 1.81 and 1.84 metres at her third attempt.

Although she has a personal best of 1.94, Braun was delighted, "I cannot remember the last time I jumped 1.90, but it was a long time ago," she said. "This was the event I was uncertain about."

Lewis's self-confessed weakness is in the shot, but she had, she said, worked on it every day for a week recently, seeking to improve her technique. She was duly rewarded, adding 19 centimetres to her personal best, for 14.55 metres. She needed to, because Braun and Sazanovich set personal bests as well.

Derrick Adkins, the defending world and Olympic champion, joined the list of big names who have gone out of the championships when he failed to reach the 400 metres hurdle final yesterday. The 27-year-old from the United States faltered badly over the final 20 metres and could do no better than finish fifth in his semi-final. Samuel Mateete, the 1991 world champion, of Zambia, just made it into the final as one of the fastest losers.



Lewis was unconvincing in the 100 metres hurdles but recovered well in the later heptathlon events yesterday

Thomas confident as Johnson falters

IWAN THOMAS'S world title hopes were lifted last night as Michael Johnson struggled to make the semi-finals of the 400 metres.

The world and Olympic champion, controversially handed a wild-card entry in Athens after missing the United States trials through injury, only finished fourth behind Jamie Baulch, the Great Britain No 3, and scraped through as a fast loser.

It was either a nearly fatal miscalculation as the Texan slowed almost to a halt in the finishing straight, or a sign that his fitness is truly suspect.

With real question marks now raised over Johnson's condition with two more rounds to go, Thomas's chances were brighter after he came through two rounds with no reaction to his own knee niggle. Thomas, second in his heat after

losing to Antonio Pettigrew, of the United States, in 44.98sec, was not prepared to make the mistake of writing off Johnson.

"Don't underestimate Michael. There's a lot more left to come from him," the British record-holder said. "I'd never do that because it isn't about today. Tomorrow is when it starts to count. I just took it easy from 200 metres."

Johnson, unbeaten for eight years until suffering defeat in Paris in June, had looked like his old self as he cruised through the morning's first round heat. Last night, despite starting comfortably, he was going backwards as Baulch, two lanes outside him, and running with real conviction, crossed the line in 45.06sec.

Johnson was passed by Davis Kamoga, of Uganda, and Ibrahim Wade, of Senegal, inside the last 10

metres and his time of 45.39sec made him 15th of the 16 qualifiers for today. Johnson rushed away from the changing area to the commentary booth of American television network NBC without comment, pausing only to pick up an NBC shirt.

Baulch, unaware that Johnson had finished so far adrift of him, smiled broadly when he was told, and was in bullish mood. "I felt very strong," he said. "I just wanted to qualify and to make sure I did what I had to, which was a good solid run. I feel good and I'm happy."

Mark Richardson, like Thomas troubled by a slight knee problem, also made it through with ease, following home Jerome Young, of the United States, in 45.05sec to complete a successful night for the British trio.

Hansen leaps into brave new world

FROM DAVID POWELL

IT NEEDED liberal use of the sticking plaster, but Great Britain's elite athletes performed a neat patch-up job here after another record-breaking performance by Kelly Holmes: the fastest exit in the world this year.

After Holmes, who leads the 1997 world rankings at 1,500 metres, had left the team hotel within 14 hours of arriving, her world championships at an end, attention turned to other British hopes: Ashia Hansen in the triple jump, Steve Backley in the javelin, Denise Lewis in the heptathlon and Iwan Thomas in the 400 metres.

Until Saturday, Hansen had not been bracketed with Britain's gold medal contenders. Though she had said in Sheffield, five weeks ago, that the gold was within her reach after setting a British record of 14.94 metres, she still seemed something of a long shot. Then a back injury, which interrupted her training and delayed her arrival here, cast doubt on her chances.

However, an outstanding jump of 14.77 metres in the qualifying competition, not only dispelled the fears but eased Britain's suffering over Holmes, who failed to finish her first round, suffering an Achilles tendon injury.

Hansen had been unhappy that word of her injury had leaked out and refused to give a press conference before the competition. Aston Moore, her coach, offered a measure of realism: "After a competition like that [Sheffield], all athletes tend to be over the top. They do not think what might happen between then and the world championships." And he added: "We are still hoping for gold."

That was before Inessa Kravets, the world champion, world record-holder and Olympic champion from Ukraine, failed to turn up for reasons unexplained. Although Kravets had shown no form this season, she remained on a list of three athletes whom Moore regarded as Hansen's main opposition.

Sarka Kasparikova, from the Czech Republic, and Rodica Mateescu, from Romania, were the other two, and, like Hansen, they will appear in

the final this evening. Given the absence of Kravets and the injured Inna Lasovskaya, of Russia, who finished runner-up in the Atlanta Olympics, Hansen may never have a better chance of a global title.

Backley eased through the qualifying round yesterday, as did Mick Hill, the 1993 world bronze medal-winner and fellow Briton.

Only three men achieved the automatic qualifying standard of 83 metres: Jan Zelezny, the world and Olympic champion from the Czech Republic, Boris Henry, from Germany, and Kostas Gatsioudis, the host nation's best hope of a gold. One does not need to look beyond these three — and Backley — for the winner.

Holmes arrived in Athens at midnight, nine hours before her race, after seeing a doctor



Hansen: outstanding

in Munich. She had left by lunchtime to see another in Switzerland. Not only was the media not informed of Holmes's injury by Malcolm Arnold, Britain's performance director, neither was David Moorcroft, the British Athletic Federation's incoming chief executive, or Phil Green, the team manager.

Arnold said nothing, at the athlete's request, but, at a time when Moorcroft is urging better communications and relationships, to mislead the media was a misjudgment. Arnold has a cynical view of the media, but, by failing to mention Holmes at a press conference on Friday, while talking about other British athletes with ailments, he gave false hope to British athletic supporters watching either here or on television.

RESULTS FROM ATHENS

Men

100 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. D. Bailey (GB) 10.25; 2. J. Jones (USA) 10.32; 3. C. Brown (USA) 10.35; 4. D. Bailey (GB) 10.25; 5. J. Jones (USA) 10.32; 6. C. Brown (USA) 10.35; 7. D. Bailey (GB) 10.25; 8. J. Jones (USA) 10.32; 9. C. Brown (USA) 10.35; 10. D. Bailey (GB) 10.25; 11. J. Jones (USA) 10.32; 12. C. Brown (USA) 10.35.

200 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 20.15.

400 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 45.39.

800 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 2:01.11.

1,500 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 4:08.87.

5,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 16:57.11.

10,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 34:44.5.

20,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 1:12:12.1.

30,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 1:58:11.1.

40,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 2:14:11.1.

50,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 2:44:11.1.

60,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 3:14:11.1.

70,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 3:44:11.1.

80,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 4:14:11.1.

90,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 4:44:11.1.

100,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 5:14:11.1.

110,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 5:44:11.1.

120,000 metres

FIRST ROUND (first three in each heat plus overall four fastest losers qualify for second round). Qualifiers: Heat one: 1. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 2. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 3. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 4. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 5. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 6. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 7. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 8. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 9. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 10. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 11. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1; 12. J. Bailey (GB) 6:14:11.1.

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Bailey's crown slips as Americans dash to victory in men's and women's sprint finals

Greene storms in to ignite Greece lightning

FROM ROB HUGHES
IN ATHENS

THE EARTH really moves in ancient Greece when the sprint champions of the new world are given the facilities and the encouragement that they experienced last night. In a pulsating men's 100 metres final, with four of the sprinters running under ten seconds, it was Maurice Greene, 23, known as the Kansas Cannonball, who stole the crown of the fastest human on earth, clocking the finish in 9.86 seconds. His message? Pure and simple: if at first you don't succeed.

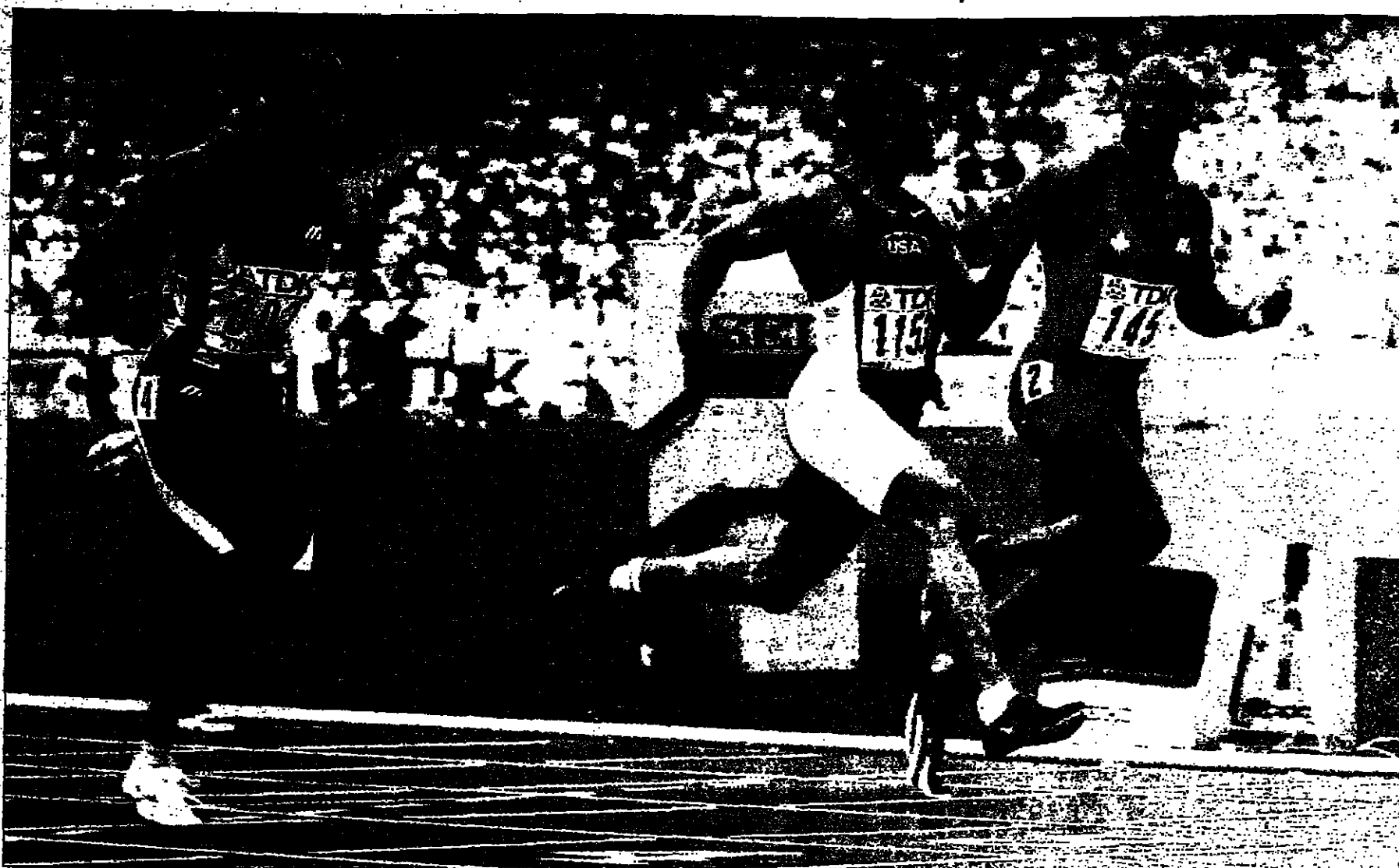
He was the young man who had failed to qualify for the United States team for the Atlanta Olympics, had been eliminated in the qualifiers for the world championships of 1995, yet finally surpassed all expectation and won the 100 metres in Athens.

The track was built for speed. The warm, humid conditions were the elements that human beings, particularly those with fast-twitch muscle fibres, thrive on. And we were breathing the Athens air, sensing the legend of athleticism in the place where it all began, though these modern-day gods in Greece were hardly native.

Who, when Baron Pierre de Coubertin relaunched the modern Olympics here in 1896, could have foreseen a Trinidadian as full of hubris as Ato Boldon, a man with a goatee beard, wrap-around sunglasses, cropped hair, an earring, a gold necklace and the cheek to predict that the world record would fall here because his girlfriend told him so?

Who would see his rival, Donovan Bailey, the world and Olympic 100 metres champion until last night, as a man of means, a stockbroker and investment consultant, before, in his mid-twenties, deciding to burn up the running tracks of the world and the record books?

"He's an actor," Dan Platt, the American coach of this adapted Canadian, said. "He has many moods, you never know which Donovan will show; it's a calisthenic every day."



Greene, centre, and Bailey, right, exchange a glance as they finish first and second in the 100 metres semi-finals last night. The positions were to be repeated in the final

There was even a stage wink from Bailey towards the NBC television camera at the athletes line-up. The last piece of audacity from the soon-to-be former world champion, for he was slow out of the blocks, and Greene stole the spotlight both from Bailey and from Boldon, who just happens to be his mentor.

Greene, just 21 years, has broken the mould of the big, powerful,

dominating sprinters. Perseverance towards the finish line was the mark of his run, that and quite exquisite balance, his face contorted with the pain of effort, gulping for air, but driving his arms like pistons until, the victory won, he reached for breath. Wonderfully, Boldon, his training partner, embraced him on the track, shared the nectar of success, before going quietly away to allow the 23-year-

old American the full and final applause. Boldon went off to contemplate his fifth-place finish, leaving Bailey with the silver medal and Tim Montgomery, of the United States, the bronze.

In the women's final, Marion Jones, 21, the American who came back to athletics, to the 100 metres and the long jump, after three years when she preferred basketball, destroyed a dream. She beat, with

audacious power and ease, Merlene Ottey, the Jamaican whose grace and womanhood cloaked her energy and force in a way that gave the sport the fragrance of femininity. Ottey, of course, had had the most remarkable run, winning 13 medals at world level. She has, more than any single athlete, put to rest the sport's arrogant words that "women have but one task in the

sporting arena — crowning the victor with garlands."

There was no mistaking yesterday that Jones is stepping into a class of one. The Americans are fond of the word "awesome"; it applies to Jones, and even the 10.49 world record of Florence Griffith Joyner will eventually come under this young woman's mercy.

There was nothing remotely like mercy last night. Ottey was run out

of the final before it even began. Focused to the point of hypnotised, she had not heard the second shot on the starter's pistol, signalling a false start, and had sprinted solo fully 60 yards down the track. Heavy of heart, painfully slow of movement, she walked back and, unsurprisingly, when the race was re-run she trailed away to finish seventh. Jones, inevitably, capitalised, although even with the Californian recording 10.83sec, the fastest of her life, Zhanna Pintushevich, of Ukraine, believed she had snatched victory. The television cameraman followed her as she jubilantly frolicked, and then everyone realised that the camera that counted, the official one on the line, had confirmed Jones's superiority.

Thankfully, not everything happens in the blink of an eye. Athletics, particularly here in its cradle, was meant to be about testing the will, sometimes the stamina, and the undaunted spirit of man or woman. Perhaps, sometimes, we have to suspend our disbelief. It seemed symbolic that these games should begin with a first gold medal to a reprieved drug abuser, Aleksandr Bagach, the Ukraine shot-putter. On the same Saturday night, the first two men home in the 20km walk, Daniel Garcia, of Mexico, and Mikhail Shchennikov, of Russia, had each survived two warnings for infringing the rules.

In isolation and her own kind of glory, Esperanza Obono finished well after the sun had gone down in her heat of the women's 10,000 metres, also on Saturday night. Hers was a performance dignified and dogmatic, an example of the human spirit prevailing against the "winner takes all" credo. For Obono, from Equatorial Guinea, completed her run in a time of 45min 13.69sec. She was 12 minutes behind the winner of her race, she was six laps behind, she was actually overtaken by the men completing their 20km walk ... and yet the crowd stayed with her, warmed to her, applauded the defiance with which this young woman epitomised the ancient ethic: the taking part.

Tokyo showdown remains the benchmark for 100m classics

David Powell on the high standard set by an earlier world championship final

The men's 100 metres final here last night was quick, that much was expected, but was it the greatest in history? There are a handful of races that come into the argument. Statistically, the one which last night's had to beat was the 1991 world championship final in Tokyo. It was an occasion when six men broke ten seconds. Linford Christie reduced his European record by 0.05 seconds to 9.92, which would be good enough to win him the Olympic title the next year, but finished fourth.

Thus began Christie's talk of retirement, so confused were his emotions at running much faster than at any time in his life, yet failing even to win a medal. Frankie Fredericks was fifth, in 9.95, while Ato Boldon was yet to become world junior champion.

Carl Lewis, of the United States, improved the world record by 0.04sec to 9.86, which was the greatest improvement in the era of electronic timing. Leroy Burrell, the silver medal winner and Lewis's training partner, lost

his world record but set a personal best of 9.88.

Burrell also suffered mixed emotions. Not just because he was defeated and lost his world record, on a night when he had his quickest run, but because Ben Johnson's drug-aided times of 9.79sec and 9.83 were still up ahead. "We need to wipe anything Johnson did out of the record books," Burrell said.

The race was intoxicating at the time, but sobering facts would soon emerge. It was controversial for two reasons: the reaction time of 0.090 seconds against the name of Dennis Mitchell, the American who was third, beat the false start limit set for the automatic recall of athletes and the track was later shown to be harder than International Amateur Athletic Federation rules allowed.

The 1992 Olympic final in Helsinki, won by Lindy Remigino, of the United

States, was memorable less for speed than a blanket finish in which first to last were covered by a metre. For a combination of speed and closeness, the 1968 United States championships, in Sacramento, prompted this excited reaction from Jim Hines, the world record holder: "There will never be another race like it," Hines said.

Five men were separated by one-tenth of a second. Charlie Greene won in 10.0sec after Hines had set a world record of 9.9 in the first semi-final. Ronnie Ray Smith was given a share of the record, because, in the same semi, he too recorded a hand timed 9.9. Yet he was reported to have looked a good metre behind Hines and his automatic back-up time was 10.14, compared with 10.03 for Hines.

So astounded was Al Bacta, the meeting director, that he called for a steel tape after the semi-finals. "We measured it

then and there," he said. "It was four inches long. That is what I remember most about that night — sweating out that measurement."

When Hines effectively improved the world record by 0.08sec, running 9.95 at altitude in the 1968 Olympics, it was one of only five occasions prior to the Athens world championships, when the record has been improved by more than the minimum possible. The first was when Charlie Paddock, of the United States, ran 10.4 for a 0.2 sec improvement in 1921.

Next was Calvin Smith's 0.02 sec progression, with 9.93, in 1983; Burrell advanced the record by 0.02 with 9.90 in 1991; then there was Lewis's 9.86 in Tokyo.

Johnson's 9.79, in the 1988 Seoul Olympic final, reverberated around the world, as did news of his subsequent drug test. However, the fastest run in any circumstances remains Obadele Thompson's 9.69 in 1996. Thompson's secret? He found altitude and a following wind in El Paso more than twice the legal limit.

This week in THE TIMES

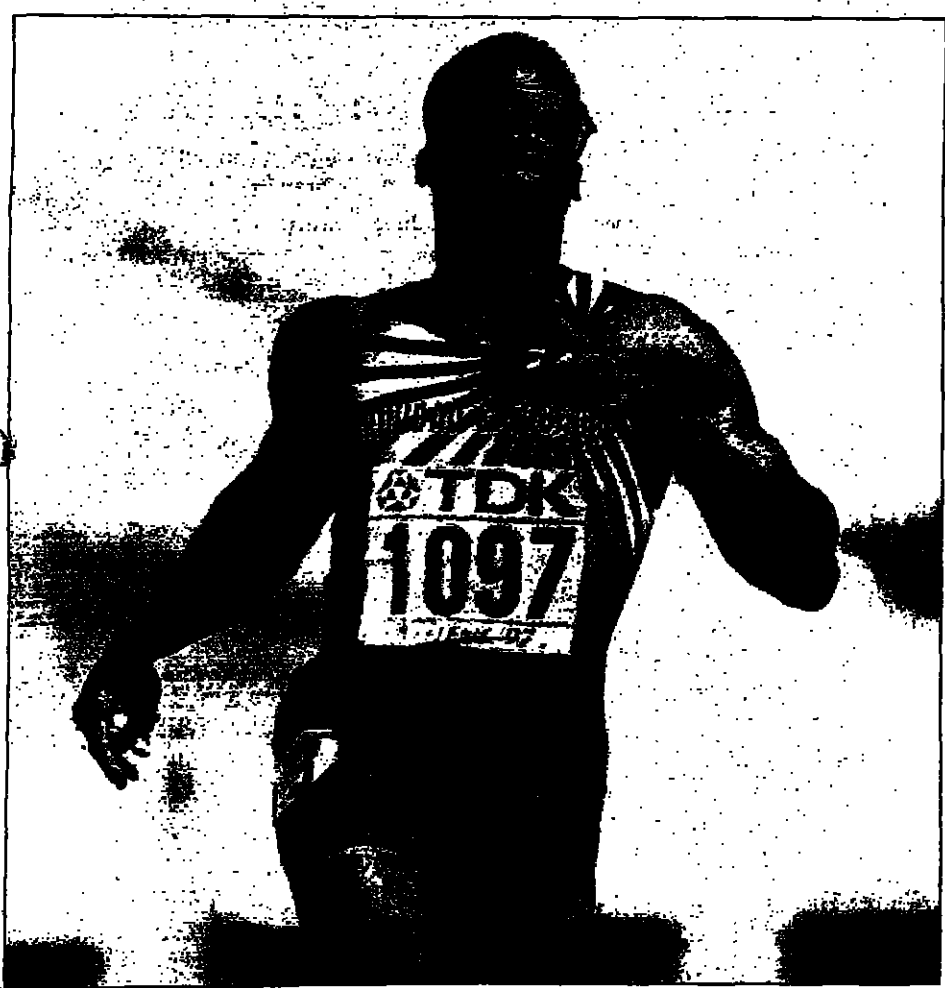


■ **Tomorrow**
Denise Lewis (above) goes for gold in the heptathlon at the world athletics championships

■ **Wednesday**
Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England Cricket Board, delivers his blueprint for the future of the game

■ **Thursday**
Alan Lee reports from Trent Bridge, where the England team prepares to meet Australia in the fifth Test of the Ashes series

■ **Friday**
On the eve of the new football season, Russell Kempson's club-by-club guide to the Premiership



Boldon powers his way through the heats. Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

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ATHENS FORM GUIDE

<p>Men</p> <p>400m RECORDS: World: 43.28sec M Reynolds (US) 1981, Championships: 43.36 M Johnson (US) 1995, UK: 44.56 T Thomas 1987. 1997 BEST: 43.75 Johnson; 44.36 Thomas; 44.49 R Martin (USA); 44.70 M Richardson; 45.02 J Burch.</p> <p>800m RECORDS: World: 1min 41.73sec S Coe (GB) 1981 and W Kiplister (Den) 1997, Championships: 1:50.08 S Konchishin (Kaz) 1997, UK: 1:41.73 Coe 1981. 1997 BEST: 1:41.73 Kiplister; 1:43.20 M Everett (US); 1:43.59 P Konchishin (Kaz); 1:44.05 M Sweeney; 1:46.30 A Hart; 1:46.4 P Walker.</p> <p>1,500m RECORDS: World: 3min 27.37sec M Morrell (AUS) 1993, Championships: 3:28.84 Morrell 1991, UK: 3:29.57 S Crain 1995. 1997 BEST: 3:29.30 H B Guernou (Mor); 3:30.13 L Polich (Kaz); 3:30.44 J Kibowen (Ken); 3:33.82 J Maycock; 3:36.20 K McKay; 3:36.36 M Yates.</p> <p>3,000m steeplechase RECORDS: World: 7min 59.18sec M Kiplanet (Ken) 1995, Championships: 8:04.16 Kiplanet 1995, UK: 8:07.96 M Rowland 1998. 1997 BEST: 8:01.80 Kiplanet; 8:02.77 W Bolt (Ken); 8:03.51 B Barmasai (Ken); 8:25.03 R Hough.</p> <p>400m hurdles RECORDS: World: 46.78sec K Young (US) 1992, Championships: 47.18 Young 1993, UK: 47.82 K Akabusi 1992. 1997 BEST: 47.77 B Brown (US); 47.57 L Hebert (CAN); 48.00 D Adkins (US); 48.05 C Rowlinson; 50.02 G Jennings.</p>	<p>High jump RECORDS: World: 2.45m J Sotomayor (Cuba) 1993, Championships: 2.40 Sotomayor 1993, UK: 2.37 S Smith 1992, 1993. 1997 BEST: 2.36 T Forsyth (Aus); 2.36 S Hoon (Nor); 2.35 K Matusevich (Bel); 2.31 Smith; 2.28 B Reilly; 2.27 D Grant.</p> <p>Women</p> <p>400m RECORDS: World: 47.60sec M Koch (E Ger) 1996, Championships: 47.99 J Kladachova (CZ) 1993, UK: 49.43 K Cook 1994. 1997 BEST: 49.39 C Freeman (Aus); 49.40 J Miles-Cook (US); 49.79 C Opara (Nigeria); 50.05 A Curtisley; 50.87 D Fraser.</p> <p>Triple jump RECORDS: World: 15.50m I Kavelos (UK) 1995, Championships: 15.30 Kavelos 1995, UK: 14.84 A Henson 1997. 1997 BEST: 15.14 R Mateescu (Rom); 14.94 Henson; 14.76 G Sprague (Lat); 13.76 M Griffith.</p> <p>Heptathlon RECORDS: World: 7,281pts J Joyner-Kersey (US) 1988, Championships: 7,128 Joyner-Kersey 1987, UK: 6,736 D Lewis 1997. 1997 BEST: 6,737 S Braun (Ger); 6,736 Lewis; 6,425 K Blair (US).</p>
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STAN GREENBERG

TELEVISION

BBC2: Live 4.30-8.30pm.

All times BST

TODAY: 08.00: Women's 10km walk final round; 08.10: Heptathlon, long jump; 08.00: Men's 800m final round; 15.40: Heptathlon, javelin group A; 16.00: Men's high jump qualifying

round; 17.00: 3,000 steeplechase semi-finals; 17.10: Heptathlon, javelin group B; 17.30: Women's triple jump final; 17.35: Men's 400m semi-finals; 18.05: Women's 400m final; 18.20: Men's 1,500m semi-finals; 18.10: Men's 400m hurdles final; 19.30: Heptathlon 800m.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Hoy draws on Powers to capture Open title

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

ANDREW HOY and his mount, Darien Powers, part of the Australia gold medal-winning team at the Atlanta Olympic Games, confirmed their status as one of the top cross-country partnerships in the Doubleprint British Open, at Gatcombe Park, yesterday after a breathtaking performance over the rain-soaked course.

Victory. Hoy's first in the event, came at the expense of Mary King, of Great Britain, who narrowly missed her fourth British Open title when she finished second, on King Solomon, and third, on Star Appeal. King had been in the lead at the start of the cross-country, but this was the biggest course that the nine-year-old King Solomon had confronted and King had been unwilling to hurry him.

Results 37

Hoy, by contrast, fairly flew round the 30 fences, his only mistake coming at fence 18, the Avonling Wall, where he got too close, causing Darien Powers to bang his knee. The part-Hannoverian grey gelding's formidable record includes a win at Le Lion d'Angers in 1994, twelfth place at the European championships the next year and the team gold in Atlanta. "He's just a fabulous horse," Hoy said. "He deserves this win."

Hoy, 38, is no less deserving. He is one of the most stylish riders around and Captain Mark Phillips's course — more demanding this year — together with the slippery ground penalised all but the most accurate partnerships. The infamous Land Rover fence (No 5) claimed two surprising victims in Mark Todd on his first horse, Stunning, and Andrew Nicholson, on Dawdle, both of whom ran out at the middle element. The new "bounce" fence (No 20)

also took its toll, with Polly Clark, on Poggio, and Paddy Muir, on Archie Brown, picking up faults.

King had two unnerving moments on the first corner at Courts Complex on King William, the winner last year, and Star Appeal but underlined her horsemanship with a quick recovery. King William, on which she won Chantilly — the French equivalent of Gatcombe — in June, finished eighth behind Todd on his second horse, Word for Word.

With riders going in reverse order of merit, the cross-country produced a nail-biting finish. Hoy, lying sixth, put the pressure on the leaders by completing the course in a fast time of 14min 44sec. Blyth Tait, lying fifth on his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, had looked set to overtake the Australian until he suffered a hair-raising descent down the steep hill from fence 24 to the water at the bottom.

The next three riders — Muir, Bettina Overesch-Baker, on Watermill Stream, and Nicholson all made mistakes, leaving King, the last to go, as the only rider able to overtake Hoy. King did not easily relinquish a title, but she had not anticipated the effect of the big fences on King Solomon. "He was quite shocked after jumping the brushes on the hill, so I decided to take the longer route at fence 27," she said. The decision handed the British Open title to Hoy but, as best Briton, King retains the national title.

Capitano, ridden by Leslie Law, died after suffering a suspected heart attack at the penultimate fence on the course. The 11-year-old gelding, owned by Elf Reddihough and bred by her father, Captain Mann, was a talented cross-country performer and had been longlisted for the European championships next month after finishing sixteenth at Badminton in May.

Courage and trust must prevail

Simon Barnes is full of admiration for the bond between horse and rider

Mary King had a horse called King William. Superb at dressage, stunning across country — but ever so slightly prone to the trashing of showjumping courses. At Atlanta, at the Olympic Games last summer, as chance would have it, King William was stabled next door to the brilliant showjumper, It's Otto. So, naturally, she and Geoff Billington, the horse's excellent and uncompromising rider, had the opportunity for many an exchange of views.

"If I'm in the lead after the cross-country," King said, "can I borrow Otto for the showjumping?" The question was of course facetious, but the answer was filled with all kinds of truths about the chasm that lies between the many and various equestrian disciplines. "You can," he said, "but if he has five fences down, I don't want to see you bloody parting him."

The professional showjumper and the eventer are horse people both, but each comes from a different equestrian universe. The same skills, different minds. Eventers caricature showjumpers as hard-headed no, let us say it, cynical, expedient, and far too hard on a horse. Showjumpers see eventers as sentimental, forever fiddle-faddling about over imaginary problems, and when you come down to it, soft at the centre.

Of course, both are right, both are wrong. The showjumper demands of his horse a contradiction. He requires a fabulous pedigree, a lunatic carelessness, because every touch of a fence costs faults, costs money. But the horse knows that a showjumping fence will always yield to his touch — the fence will forgive most of his errors.

An event horse knows that the fences of the cross-country phase of an event such as the British Open, which concluded at Gatcombe Park yesterday, forgive nothing and nobody. Like the big fences of top level showjumping, they make massive athletic and technical demands. But the biggest demand that eventing makes is in that little technicality called courage.

An eventer needs the courage to risk his, or for that



Andrew Hoy steers Darien Powers to the British Open at Gatcombe Park

matter her, neck. He also needs the courage to tell someone to look after his neck and he needs the still greater courage to put that trust in an individual from a different species. That rule holds true for riders and the horses.

Gatcombe Park is a wonderful natural amphitheatre. Its stone house snug and secure at the head of the valley. Its cross-country course has been brilliantly laid out to bring every viewing advantage to the spectator and every nuance of the undulating country to the testing of rider and horse. Stand on the valley floor and watch the crazy downhill staircase of a fence called the Triplepoint Treble, which is followed by a pell mell descent of a slope of about 45 degrees. At its foot, a leap over rails into water. All the way down that slope, the rider

must do everything to tell his horse to stop — without actually making him stop. Balance, athleticism, willingness to listen to the rider, and of course sheer courage. "He was getting — not exactly terrified — but shocked," King said, after she and King Solomon had finished second. "As if he was saying — 'what on earth is she going to ask me to do next?'"

It is doubts began on the aforementioned precipitous triple, and King, not one to bully a horse, eased up a little and sacrificed her chance of victory. You do not risk damage to a horse's courage. You can undo ten years of work on a horse in a single afternoon.

Event riders, as a matter of routine, ask absolutely ridiculous things of their horses. It is impossible to understand

how a horse puts up with it. As I watched the horses steaming into that triple, I imagined them turning to their riders, in the manner of Benjamin turning to his father in *The Graduate* before making his entrance in his new frogman's suit, and saying: "Can we discuss this please?"

But they don't. Horse after horse flung himself off the top of the hill, and the rider flung himself with them, each trusting the one to catch the other before they hit the bottom. The difference between showjumping and eventing is that in showjumping, the fences forgive the horses. In eventing, riders do the forgiving. The best riders forgive their horses anything, then to take the blame for anything that has gone wrong. Mary King finished second. She patted her horse.

Doochan closes in on fourth world crown

MICHAEL DOOCHAN strengthened his grip on the 1997 world 500cc motorcycle title when he won the Brazilian Grand Prix in Rio de Janeiro. It was Doochan's ninth win in ten races this season and his seventh in succession. Doochan, starting from pole on a Repsol Honda, made a slow start before settling into his customary dominant role.

Doochan, of Australia, was in the lead by halfway through the first of the 24 laps and stayed there, despite a determined challenge from Tadayuki Okada, of Japan, who finished second on his Honda. Luca Cadalora, of Italy, was third on his Yamaha. Doochan can make certain of his fourth world championship at the British Grand Prix in two weeks. The Italian, Giacomo Agostini, holds the record of 11 race wins in a season.

Mickelson well clear

GOLF: Phil Mickelson is within sight of his second victory in the Sprint International event in Castle Rock, Colorado. The American Ryder Cup player took a five-point lead into the final round after a third round of 66, which included six birdies, had earned him 12 points under the modified Stableford system. Second place was held by another American, Skip Kendall. Nick Faldo failed to beat the cut.

McRae forced out

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae, right, of Scotland, and Tommi Mäkinen, of Finland, were forced out of the New Zealand rally on the second day in gruelling conditions in Auckland yesterday. Mäkinen, the world champion, crashed his Mitsubishi, while McRae, who was leading, after the first day, broke a cam belt in his Subaru. Carlos Sainz, of Spain, leads by 22sec.



Bailey takes title

SQUASH: Tania Bailey, of Lincolnshire, has won the world junior women's championship by beating Isabelle Stoeck, of France, 9-6, 9-1, 9-7 in the final in Rio de Janeiro. Bailey, 17, already the European junior champion, will next lead England in pursuit of the world junior women's team title that they last won in 1991. Vicky Lancaster, Cheryl Beaumont and Lauren Briggs are likely to join Bailey in the team.

Britain stage recovery

MODERN PENTATHLON: The Great Britain women's team of Kate Allenby, Katie Houston and Julia Allen won the bronze medal in the team relay competition at the world championships in Sofia. In sixth place after the shooting, fencing, swimming and showjumping, the team recorded the fastest time over the 4,500-metre cross-country course to finish behind Italy and Poland.

Success for Gourlay

BOWLS: David Gourlay, from Annbank, won the Scottish singles championship at Ayr Northfield on Saturday with a 21-8 victory achieved on the last bowl against Alex Deans, from Polmaise. Gourlay has won a record nine national indoor titles, but this was his first triumph in an outdoor championship. "This victory means everything to me," he said.

Hingis has final say

TENNIS: Martina Hingis, right, the world No 1, humbled Mary Pierce 6-0, 6-2 in the semi-finals of the WTA Toshiba Classic in San Diego, California. Monica Seles overcame Amanda Coetzer 6-3, 6-4. In the semi-finals of the Canadian Open in Montreal, Chris Woodruff beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov 5-7, 7-5, 6-3, while Gustavo Kuerten beat Michael Chang, 6-3, 6-1.



Higgins doubtful

SNOOKER: Alex Higgins, who sprained his right wrist and ankle in an incident on Friday, may not be able to compete in the second event of the professional qualifying school that begins in Plymouth today. Higgins, due to meet Ian Hurdman, may face disciplinary proceedings after police were called to the venue when Higgins became involved in a dispute with a tournament official.

SAILING: BRITISH CREWS REPAIR THEIR REPUTATION AS UNITED STATES SET PACE AFTER CHANNEL RACE

Law changes begin to bear fruit in Admiral's Cup

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SAILORS in the British Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup team are being careful not to get carried away because there is still a long way to go in the championship but, after a solid performance in the Channel Race over the weekend, a top-three overall finish is now on the cards.

That may not sound too dramatic, but set against the modest expectations for the team early on this year and the humiliation of last place two years ago, a top-three placing would represent a big step forward.

Going into the two windward/leeward races in Christ-

church Bay today — races four and five of the nine-race series — the three-boat Britain team is lying second overall, with the United States leading and Germany third.

The Americans compiled the best results in the 180-mile Channel Race with two seconds and a first. The British were one of three teams to score a total of ten points, with the big boat, *Corum Indulgence*, fourth, and both the ILC 40, *Easy Oars*, and the Mumm 36, *Bradamante*, third in class.

The showing of Tony Buckingham's *Easy Oars*, skippered by Andy Beadsworth, was perhaps the most encouraging. She was as fast as expected in light airs that dominated

the later stages of the 24-hour race, but also held her own during the fresher early stages, including the opening beat westwards out of the Solent, when the westerly breeze reached 25 knots.

Results 37 Photograph 37

Vincent Geake, the navigator on *Easy Oars*, was delighted with third even though a chance of a win slipped away in the close manoeuvring at the finish. "We're very pleased," he said. "In stronger winds we stayed with the others and

when the wind came light, we were definitely quiet." On the big boat, the skipper, Chris Law, brought in two extra helmsmen for the race. Stuart Childerly and Graham Bailey, who normally drives *Arbitrator*, Childerly, who will also join the boat for the Fastnet, is impressed with the change in atmosphere since Law took over a couple of months ago. "Chris has done a great job in co-ordinating abilities and talents on the boat," he said.

While the Italian big boat, *Noon Madina*, got away early on and sailed an immaculate race, winning both on handicap and on the water, *Indulgence* stayed in touch with the pack and could have done better had

a couple of shifts gone their way in the final stages in Poole Bay. After all racing was cancelled on Saturday due to lack of wind, Skandia Life Cowes Week got under way yesterday, with all 30 classes enjoying fresh conditions under wet and overcast skies. In the maxi class, Mike Slade's *Skandia Longboard* avenged his defeat on Saturday by Johnnie Caulcutt, who challenged him to a race under motor around HMS Manchester and narrowly beat him.

In Class 1, Kit Hobday's *Independent Bear* took the honours, with the veteran Cassidy SS, *Australian Maid*, owned by Jon Wardell, second and Glyn Williams's *Wolf* third.

POLO

Handicap hampers Laird effort

THE final of the tournament for the Cowdroy Park Challenge Cup, which had attracted an entry of 16 teams, was played in wet and slippery conditions over five chukkas at Midhurst yesterday (John Watson writes). Brook Johnson's side, CS Brooks, the holders, beat the Beaufort Club squad, Laird, by 6½ goals to five.

The 1-goal advantage conceded to CS Brooks was a result of the recent handicap promotion given to Laird's No 3, Will Lucas, which put their team aggregate up to 16, one more than the limit for the tournament.

Laird proved to be the more closely co-operative side, as shown in particular by Lucas and his Chilean No 2, Juan Donoso, who gave an impressive display of mutual support.

They were, though, too often taken unawares by lightning solo attacks from the two CS Brooks linchpins, Novillo Astrada and Charles Beresford.

CS Brooks: 1. S. Johnson (1), 2. J. Donoso (2), 3. W. Lucas (1), 4. M. Amador (1), 5. E. Ward (1), 6. J. Wardell (1), 7. J. Williams (1), 8. J. Wardell (1), 9. J. Williams (1), 10. J. Williams (1), 11. J. Williams (1), 12. J. Williams (1), 13. J. Williams (1), 14. J. Williams (1), 15. J. Williams (1), 16. J. Williams (1).

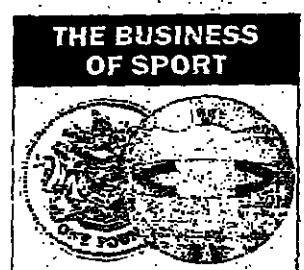
POLO

Markets set for promotion

Sunderland's Stadium of Light opened last week with a celebratory match against Ajax, but the game was a damp squib — which is apt, given the performance of Sunderland's shares since the club was floated in order to finance the building of the stadium.

Most City analysts were concerned about the likelihood that Sunderland would be relegated from the FA Carling Premiership when the shares were floated last December. This did not stop the market pushing the stock to a quick premium, but, as Sunderland's form dipped, so did the shares, and, after the inevitable demotion, the shares now trade at 40 per cent less than the flotation price.

Wearers putting their money behind their passion will have lost their red and white-striped shirts by now — but they are not the only ones. The performances of the 18 quoted football clubs in the past few months have been a cause of much heartache. Among the worst have been Millwall (whose shares were recently relisted, having gone into administration), Aston Villa (15 per cent off the flotation price) and the Caspian Group, owner of Leeds United, where the poor financial performance has gone hand-in-hand with the team's inability to score goals.



However, relief is on hand. There are many in the City who think a renewed boom in football shares is on the cards. The logic is that most clubs came to the market showing poor results, largely because of the fact that they had been investing heavily in players and in their stadiums. The high market prices obtained were down to the prospect of riches from pay-per-view television of live football, but those riches appear unlikely to be gushing forth in the next couple of seasons and the City has decided that the income will not be as exciting as had been thought.

The reason is news from Italy that the take-up for the pay-per-view system launched by Telepiu was not good. Yet applying this to the United Kingdom is dangerous, as there had not been any previous pay television coverage of football in Italy and new subscribers had to purchase expensive decoding systems.

CYCLING

Clay staves off Obree challenge

GRAEME OBREE, the former world pursuit champion, made a spirited return to action after a ten-month retirement when he finished second behind Jon Clay in the Brough Wheelers Invitational at North Yorkshire.

Clay, the British pursuit champion, needed to produce a course and event record over 18 miles, 33sec to beat off the Scot and win by a clear 13 seconds on Saturday. "I can only go faster from now on," Obree said afterwards. He will next try to gain selection for the Great Britain world championship track team in Paris, Australia, at the end of the month. At the moment, Obree has only one British 26-mile time-trial championship, on September 28, pencilled in on the calendar.

Five Britons in a strong breakthrough in the closing stages of the 110-mile Tour de l'Avenir failed to match the speed of Tony Brackley, Belgium, who went clear within ten miles to go to win by time 7sec from John Tanser and Rob Hayles. Tanser had the consolation of winning the King of the mountains award.

Jason Nisse

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FOOTBALL: CHELSEA BOW TO CHAMPIONS IN CHARITY SHIELD AFTER PENALTY SHOOT-OUT AT WEMBLEY

United resume normal service

Chelsea
Manchester Utd
(Man Utd win 4-2 on pens)

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AN HOUR before the kick-off, the group of young girls wandering up the Wembley Hill Road, their faces lit with a garish mix of blue and white, were busy singing last year's Chelsea song. Farther on, in the shadow of Wembley's great walls, a cluster of Manchester United supporters wandered towards the turnstiles wearing shirts with the name of their departed hero, Eric Cantona, emblazoned on them.

It was the day after the FA Charity Shield, a curious thing, the winners of last season at the beginning of this one, a sentimental harking back to the glories of the past just when clubs are about to embark on the search for fresh honours. In some ways, it feels as if it should be a finale not the curtain-raiser that it traditionally is.

Yesterday, though, in front of a capacity crowd that had choked London's roads hours before the kick-off in the first throes of a new campaign's enthusiasm, it served its purpose by doubling as English football's annual rite of renewal, the beginning of the feast at the end of the fast.

It was not a spectacular match and it ended in that most unsatisfactory of ways, a penalty shoot-out, convincingly won by United, whose four takers did not miss a kick, but by the time United and Chelsea began their laps of honour, the memories of old idols had faded and the crowd was rising to acclaim new heroes.

The air was filled with excited shrieks from the stands when United trooped on David Beckham with 20 minutes to go. Flags proclaiming him, not Cantona, as "King" fluttered in the breeze. And when Roy Keane climbed the steps to the royal box to lift his first domestic trophy as United captain, there was a heady sense that this could be the start of even greater things for Alex Ferguson's side.

At the Chelsea end, opposite the tunnel, there were other reasons to revel in the thrill of the new. If Roberto Di Matteo married his memories of his FA Cup Final goal by missing one of the Chelsea penalties, Gustavo Poyet, the Uruguayan midfielder bought from Real Zaragoza during the summer, gave a performance of such elegance and sustained threat tucked in behind Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola that his signing must surely herald an improvement in Chelsea's FA Cup Premiership fortunes this season.

Yet, despite the feeling that Chelsea's star is on the rise, most of the feelings of exhilaration stemmed from watching the beginnings of the latest incarnation of a United side that is still evolving, towards its goal of European domination. Without ever being at their best, Scholes, the fastest-emerging talent, was lively and inventive on the right side of midfield; Sheringham, the new signing from Tottenham Hotspur, was a first-half fount of clever flicks and beautifully



Hughes, struggling off Pallister's challenge, leaves the United defender on the ground as Chelsea search for a breakthrough at Wembley

weighted passes eerily reminiscent of the Frenchman he has been bought to replace and Butt and Keane were the epitomes of solidity and dominance in the heart of midfield. Sheringham fashioned United's first and probably best chance in the fifth minute, when he lifted a ball over Clarke's head and into the path of Scholes. Scholes, playing his first competitive match since he burst into the national consciousness during Le Tournoi de France, bore down on de Goey but rammed his right-foot shot deep into the Dutch goalkeeper's midriff.

After Keane had welcomed Poyet to English football with a drop-kick that connected with the side of his head

instead of the ball, the Uruguayan emulated Sheringham by lofting a fine pass over Johnson to Zola. Zola took the ball on but could not get into a position to shoot before Pallister frustrated him with a saving tackle.

Midway through the first half, as Wise raised the tempo with a mistimed tackle on Sheringham and a playful tap on the head of Butt, which the United man reacted to as though it were a right cross, Scholes brought into action for the first time, saving comfortably from Hughes's header after an intelligent cross from Morris. Six minutes before half-time, Poyet spurned an opportunity to cement his reputation with his

new admirers when he swung at a low cross from Zola with only Schmeichel to beat but got only the faintest of touches. On the stroke of half-time, a fine first-half ball from Giggs put Sheringham through, but he dragged his shot wide and, seven minutes after the interval, United paid the price for his miss. Zola's deep corner caught Schmeichel flat-footed at the back post and the ball sailed over him to Hughes, who dispatched it unerringly into the net.

Five minutes after that, United hit back. Giggs's outswinging corner eluded Leboeuf and Johnson, who had not scored for United in 42 games last season, nodded the ball down so firmly that de

Goey could only push it into the roof of the net. Beckham, who has been warned by Ferguson that he may have to spend the first three weeks of the season on the bench, may have got the message that he was not in the forefront of the manager's thoughts when he was forced to appear in a shirt that bore his name on it — missing the "H". Reputations count for nothing now that the new season is upon us.

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New boys quick to settle in for new term

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking & Screaming

A part from the obvious differences of venue and atmosphere, the autumn term at school always started rather like this. I mean, obviously, there generally weren't crowds of ecstatically happy people yelling "Glory, Glory Man United", or "We Are the Champions" after school on the netball courts, but on the first day you turned up just like this with a certain pit-of-the-stomach anxiety — "back already, can't believe it" — to find that half of your mates had ill-advisedly changed their haircuts in the holidays, some had got a new uniform, while others had left unexpectedly for France, never to be seen again.

It was a weird sensation to see these familiar Manchester United and Chelsea teams from last season. They were the same, but different. Through the past few weeks, we have all heard about the injuries, signings and departures, but it is still odd when, on the United lap of honour, Teddy Sheringham lifts the Charity Shield as if he has actually had anything to do with Manchester United 1996-97. Come off it, Teddy. Eric should be here, not you.

Much can happen in just a few weeks. Cantona gone and instantly forgotten, for example. Who would have suspected that? Roy Keane has lost his lovely locks (they could call him Shorn, like the sheep in *Wallace and Gromit*) and has somehow got to play as captain! You see, I told you weird things could happen in the holidays. Meanwhile, Roberto di Matteo has acquired an enviable tan ("Nice holiday, Roberto?"). Mark Hughes has gone grey, and David Beckham's mum

has perversely decided to spell his name BECKAM on his new shirt (perhaps out of annoyance because his hair looks so yucky these days). It's wonderful to have football back and not just because it makes a fan feel secure. The Great Summer of Sport is great in its own way, but after watching Test match cricketers stand around all day adjusting their hats, or Nick Faldo dithering over each shot until he has mentally recited the Lord's Prayer, the reckless energy of the real-life football field is astonishing.

All summer I have seen wan crowds attempting plucky Mexican waves and it has always looked stupid. Only at football does it make sense to get completely carried away. Only at football can you see 22 individual bolts of adrenalin running around and bumping into each other to such fabulous effect. Yesterday, of course, the downside of all this post-holiday bouncy stuff was the number of fights on the field — fights that involved a fair amount of verbal, but mainly playground pushing, with hand flat against chest. Sheringham and Wise pushed each other. Wise pushed Pallister. Wise pushed everybody. The United fans, thereafter, booed Wise's every move, which was fair enough, although you had to see that

he was just keen. Clinging to my Autumn Term notion, I was sorry that yellow-card incidents abounded, especially when new players were involved. Tut-tut, not on your first day! At the same time, however, I had a sneaking suspicion that the United fans enjoyed seeing new-boy Sheringham in his Mister Mean, veins-on-neck mode — in the absence of a goal from him, a show of machismo was probably the next best thing. Have I misremembered the end of the season? It was never as speedy as this, surely? Yesterday, when Hughes scored the opening goal for Chelsea, in the 52nd minute, the ball went so fast that, even on a slow-motion replay, it still resembled a bullet. At the end of last season, when Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was pleading tiredness (and everyone told him: "Shut up, you big whinger!"), I can now see his point. By comparison with this level of verve, his players at the end of last season were like Superman when a big lump of Kryptonite is inconveniently tied around his neck.

I shan't dwell on the result yesterday except to cry a bit and sniff and maintain an impenetrable shield of journalistic objectivity. Were I to take a closer look at Sinclair (a consistent bobo), and also ask if it is too late to break the unfortunate deal with Autoglass (which strikes the wrong note for poncey Chelsea, as any fool could tell him). I would also ask him why he limbers up so ostentatiously on the touchline when he clearly has no intention of joining his team. Why does he do that? Is it a threat to his own boys, or to the opposition, or does he just want to tease the crowd? Yesterday, he even had shorts on, not to mention shin pads. It was wicked.

The person to feel sorry for yesterday, though, was the new Chelsea goalkeeper, Ed de Goey. Alongside Peter Schmeichel (no midget, himself), De Goey appeared a gigantic man, a solid obstacle in a previously leaky goal. Then the match went to penalties. "Meant to tell you, can't do penalties," he whispered to Gullit, in Dutch. "Hoped it wouldn't come up." What a bummer for the big lad. And on his very first day, as well.

Shearer sets World Cup finals as goal

ALAN SHEARER, the England captain, yesterday revealed the ambition that will fuel his drive to recover from a serious ankle injury. Shearer, who damaged ankle ligaments while playing for Newcastle United against Everton in an Umbro Cup match last week, aims to be the leading goalscorer during the World Cup finals in France next year.

The forward will be on the sidelines for several months as Newcastle's Premiership campaign begins. He also will miss England's World Cup qualifying matches against Moldova and Italy.

"Before this injury I had set myself two targets for the next 12 months — to help Newcastle to win at least one trophy and to finish as top scorer in the World Cup finals in France," he said.

Both of those are still possible. Newcastle have a quality squad and will be up there challenging for the top honours by the time I'm fit to play again. The same applies

to England. There are plenty of good strikers capable of helping us qualify for the World Cup finals. But whoever replaces me must remember that he is only getting the No 9 shirt on loan.

Shearer, who suffered cruciate knee ligament damage during his Blackburn Rovers days and has had three groin operations, is refusing to allow his latest injury setback to affect him adversely.

"I'll be back for Newcastle for their bid to win something and I'll be raring to go for England next summer, when I intend to finish top of the goal charts at the World Cup finals, just as I did in Euro 96."

Arsenal's home matches in the Uefa Cup this season will be televised on Channel 5. The station will also broadcast Chelsea's home games in the Cup Winners' Cup, Aston Villa in the Uefa Cup and Newcastle's Champions' League qualifying round second-leg match against Croatia Zagreb on August 27.

Duffy's mavericks making merry

Hibernian 2
Celtic 1
By Kevin McCarron

THE environmental lobby would have been piqued with this gas-guzzler of a match, but the crowd at Easter Road was captivated by the sight of resources being squandered. The pitch was packed with men who were reckless with their energy and generous with the passion they brought to their opening fixture of the Bell's Scottish League season. Most of them were playing for an exuberant Hibernian.

There are misanthropes who gripe over the return of football, but only gratitude could be experienced at this game. The satisfaction lay in the velocity of the action and in the range of footballers who were permitted to participate. Although opinions of the Hibernian manager, Jim Duffy, who only took the job in January, are still to be fully formed, he will never be a dudge.

He is a man who sometimes seems to champion indolence, willing as he is to sign individuals who are irregular in their habits. Few other managers would have signed that prolific accumulator of red cards, Chic Charnley, yet the sight, eight minutes before the interval, of the veteran midfielder placing a drive against the bar from 35 yards left his manager only inches away from utter vindication.

Complete fulfillment arrived in the 76th minute, when Charnley scored the winning goal. He was abetted by Celtic's Henrik Larsson, the recent signing from Feyenoord, who was too adventurous with a pass out of defence. It rolled straight to Charnley and he manoeuvred before drilling a left-footed drive home from 20 yards.

Duffy's selection for the mavericks also brought other rewards. When Tony Hoogier was at Raith Rovers, appreciation for the range of his skills quarrelled with reservations about his fitness. All the same, Hibernian did not hesitate to buy him and yesterday his body was trim and his skills

sleek, particularly when he created the opening goal in the 24th minute. Cricketers talk of the "corridor of uncertainty" and football, too, has its treacherous zones. From the left wing, Rougier curled a dipping cross between the goalkeeper and the defence. Marshall, the goalkeeper, was unsure whether he should even attempt to reach it and as he paused, Power hurried in to force the ball over the line.

It is rare for Celtic, who had not lost to Hibernian in their previous 20 meetings, to appear bland and orthodox, but the attempt to be cautious in this game was misplaced. Wim Jansen, their head coach, chose to play with Johnson as the single target man, perhaps believing that they would outlast Hibernian. The home side, however, never did flag, and were impelled by a crowd that yearned to see punitive treatment of Jackson, who recently left Easter Road to sign for Celtic.

Given their rather mechanical display, it was predictable that Celtic's goal, an equaliser after 29 minutes, should come from a set-piece. Mackay met Donnelly's corner with a crashing header and Willie Miller, on the goaline, could do no more than assist it into his own net.

That may have been the only moment of the entire afternoon when Hibernian's sense of direction faltered. HIBERNIAN (4-4-2): O. Goetzalson — W. Miller, J. Hughes, B. Welch, J. Boco — T. Rougier, P. Mackay, C. Charnley, A. Dow — S. Crawford (sub: P. Loach, 80min), I. Power (sub: G. Miller, 82).

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commences with a game against Heart of Midlothian at Ibrox this evening. In addition to registering Celtic's defeat, Rangers also observed unsatisfactory results for other leading clubs. Aberdeen dominated the match with Kilmarnock at Pittodrie on Saturday, but could only manage a 0-0 draw. Dundee United established their superiority at McDiarmid Park, yet failed to increase the lead given to them by Kjell Olofsson against St Johnstone and conceded an own goal by Stewart McKinnon.

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Celtic stand firm on Di Canio

By Kevin McCarron

CELTIC may have been beaten comfortably by Hibernian yesterday, but the club was able to mount one act of defiance. Jock Brown, the general manager, insisted that Paolo Di Canio, who has walked out on Celtic, is still not for sale. One newspaper had reported that a deal had been struck transferring him to Sheffield Wednesday for £3.7 million.

Brown was said to have conducted negotiations with representatives of the English club during a meeting at the Amsterdam Hilton. "All I was doing yesterday was trying to buy players," Brown replied. Di Canio, who insists that his terms should be reviewed so his wages can be raised by 50 per cent to £18,000 a week, remains in Italy, with a medical certificate citing stress as

his reason for refusing to play. If the situation proves intractable, Celtic may eventually conclude it would be better to sell the winger and use the proceeds to strengthen their squad.

A considerable profit might also prove tempting since the player was bought last year by Tommy Burns, the previous manager, for a mere £900,000. A transfer to Sheffield Wednesday still looks feasible, even if its timing is uncertain.

Celtic's convoluted distress will be pleasing to supporters of their principal rivals. Indeed, Rangers may feel that they have made a satisfactory start to the Bell's Scottish League premier division campaign before they have even played their first match. For them, the programme

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England ring changes for the fifth Test with Hollioake brothers poised to make historic debuts

Stewart reverts to dual role in opening gambit

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

A NATION weaned on heroes will rejoice and, in the week when the wellington boots of football tramp roughshod over summer sport, cricket will turn previous reluctant heads. Even the opposition may shift uneasily at the prospect of two of their own kind — young, brash and audibly Australian — lining up against them.

Reacting to parlor circumstance, the England selectors have unashamedly gambled. The Hollioake brothers, already invested with soap-opera status, both feature in a 15-man party for the fifth Cornhill Test at Trent Bridge this week and the balance of the squad dictates that they will create history by making their debuts together.

The hunches do not end here. The decision that caused a longer debate and a greater dilemma concerned the Hollioakes' Surrey team-mate, Alec Stewart. It was widely agreed that he could not go on batting at No 3 and, indeed, he will not. Rather than taking the prescribed route down to No 6, though, Stewart will now go in first.

As he will also continue to keep wicket, Stewart is resuming the most onerous duties imaginable — those, it has to be said, he would not undertake again. Needs must. After much of the most protracted and animated meeting of the summer, the selectors concluded that this was the only role that would satisfy Stewart's temperament and their own requirements. Within the reshuffling of a

demonstrably flawed batting order, Mark Butcher and Mark Ealham are sacrificed, while John Crawley is promoted, probably as high as No 3. Graham Thorpe keeps his place, though only, I understand, after an agonised debate that pitted the negatives of his state of mind against his acknowledged ability to score Test runs in volume and at speed.

Predictably, Mike Smith is the one immediate casualty among the bowlers and his place will almost certainly go

SQUAD		Age	Caps
M A Atherton (Lancs, captain)	29	71	
A J Stewart (Surrey)	34	57	
J P Crawley (Lancs)	28	31	
N Hussain (Essex)	29	21	
G P Thorpe (Surrey)	25	41	
A J Hollioake (Surrey)	25	0	
B C Hollioake (Surrey)	19	0	
R D B Croft (Gloucestershire)	27	19	
A R Caddick (Somerset)	28	14	
D Gough (Yorkshire)	26	31	
D W Hoadley (Kent)	27	2	
D E Malcott (Derby)	34	38	
P C R Tufnell (Middlesex)	31	27	

to Andy Caddick. A fourth change may yet occur, however, for Robert Croft is far from certain to fill the spin-bowling role. Philip Tufnell, having travelled in vain to all four previous Tests, may at least be worth more than a tick in the attendance register.

None of this will merit much public excitement today when set against the elevation of the Hollioakes. The layman cricket follower has been unable to grasp why both were not included as soon as they had helped to win the Texaco

Trophy and their selection will now be seen in some quarters as belated and begrudging.

This is far from the truth. Past England selectors have certainly been timorous, even disdainful, in the presence of precocious talent, but David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, and his colleagues were absolved from that accusation as soon as they included the Hollioakes in their one-day planning at a stage when very few pundits would even have considered the younger brother, Ben.

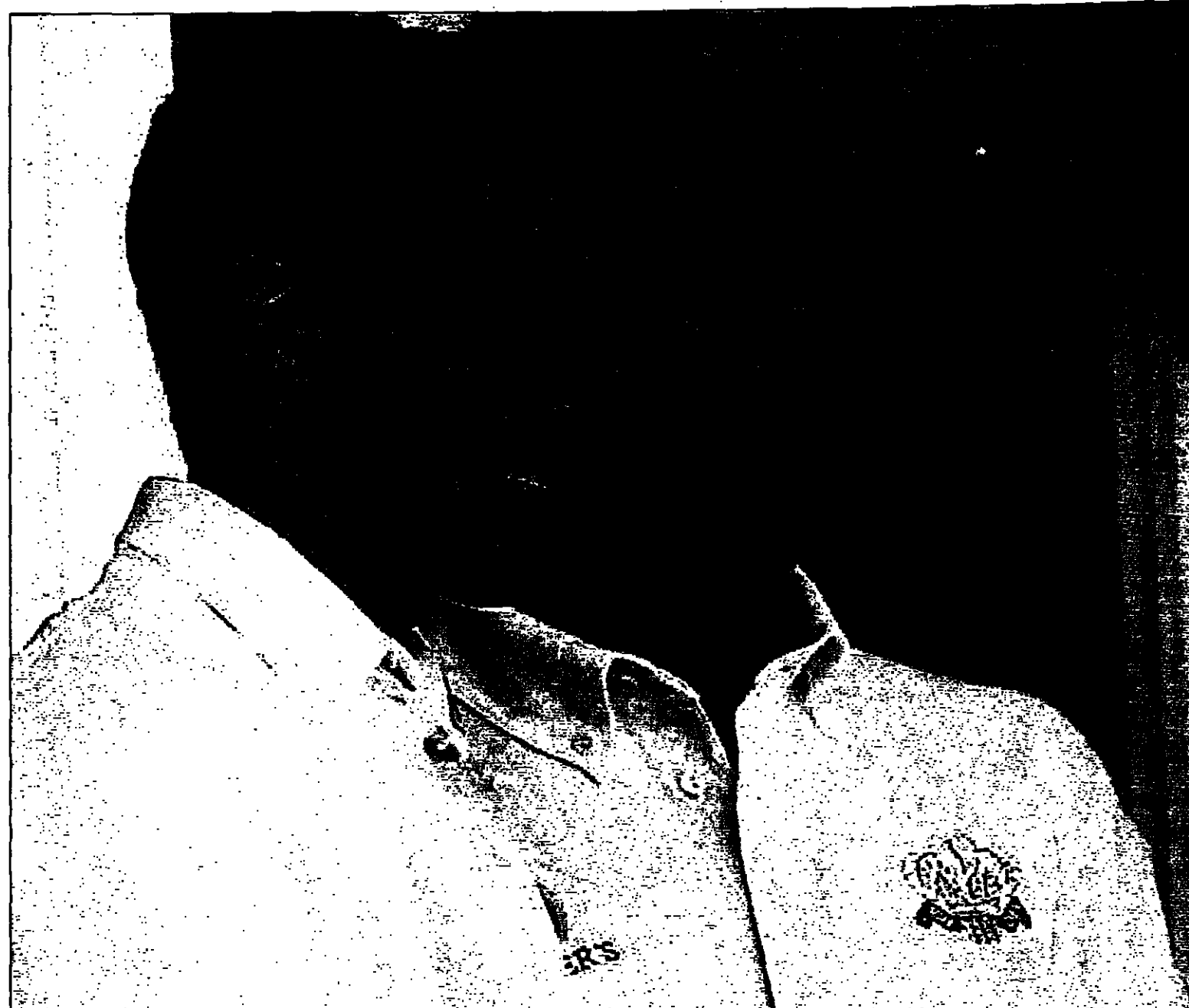
They went further and Ben, 19, played in the final match at Lord's. When he made runs, vividly and fearlessly, he became the darling of the tabloid tendency and, in such minds, the saviour of the game. It was all too fanciful. His bowling was naive and unproven and his batting contained obvious technical flaws.

Two months on, nothing much has altered except England's needs. The series is being lost, the dressing-room requires a transfusion of self-belief and the country is in no mood to condone blind faith in that which will not work. Ben comes in on a whim, a prayer and a justifiable hope that his big-time temperament, already displayed before two full houses at Lord's, will stretch the extra mile.

As there is nobody else in the squad equipped at No 7, it can be assumed that Hollioake minor will play one place on the card beneath his Surrey captain and older brother, Adam, narrowly rejected in favour of Ealham at the start of this series, was an automatic inclusion, though few would have forecast the order as it is to be revised around him.

Butcher is entitled to be shocked, perhaps even to feel that he was a more convenient, less emotive casualty than Thorpe. Their runs aggregates for the series are only seven apart, but the impression that Thorpe, at his best a destroyer of high-class bowling, remains more likely to make an influential century was doubtless a decisive factor. Interestingly, Graveney spoke to him before the selectors met to satisfy himself of his state of mind.

"Both Butcher and Ealham are unlucky," Graveney said. "Nobody simply gets thrown out any more and I have told each of them that they are part of our thinking for the future." Graveney, aware of the surprise that would greet the latest revision of Stewart's job,



The Hollioakes, Ben, left, and Adam, are looking forward to being the first brothers to make their England Test debuts together this century

Brothers answer call to arms

Alan Lee looks at two players for whom Test cricket will be a family business

his own publicity as the England captain in waiting.

The prospect of him replacing Michael Atherton, with or without Atherton's consent, could not be taken seriously while Hollioake remained uncapped — to his credit, he publicly dismissed such talk himself — but now that he is in the team, it is a plausible option if Atherton finally finds his attachment to the job and his ability to deflect its sharpest arrows worn down by too many deflating defeats.

Hollioake has some way to go. He has to establish his place as a batsman, for he is never going to influence Test matches with the ball. Then he has to convince those who matter that the teething troubles of his leadership of Surrey say less about his own character than the shortcomings of his side.

The Benson and Hedges triumph apart, Surrey have

played poorly this season and their behaviour, judged by umpires' reports, has been disreputable. The image of the team is unattractive and perhaps Hollioake has realised this in time, for he has taken the brave and timely step of dismissing his controversial agent, Gareth James.

What big brother decides, little brother will usually follow, which will make the Hollioakes very hot property. Their dual accession to their adopted national team makes them the first pair of brothers this century to make their Test debuts together and the first to play together for England since Dick Richardson made his only Test appearance alongside Peter against West Indies at Trent Bridge in 1957.

It will also heighten the attention, from way beyond the regular sports media, that has, to some degree, accompanied them all summer.

Adam was certain to play in this game — his inclusion was decided as soon as the England batting failed again at Headingley ten days ago — but the promotion of Ben to be the youngest England Test cricketer since Brian Close, 48 years ago, came only after the three selectors convened at Hove on Friday and watched his influence on an under-19 international.

With the junior Hollioake, the selling point is not so much what he does but the way that he does it. Like his more openly aggressive brother, he has that indefinable thing called "attitude" and it is for this reason that the selectors shelled their well-reasoned reluctance to rush a teenager of exciting innocence and alarming technical vulnerability. They did it because, 19 or not, Ben Hollioake is neither innocent nor vulnerable when it comes to a contest with his native land. In this, he may not upstage big brother, but he will certainly seek to be his equal.

Surrey pair confident of making an impact

BY SIMON WILDE AND JOHN STERN

BEN HOLLIOAKE was en route to Southampton to practise with the England under-19 players when he answered his mobile phone to find David Graveney on the other end of the line to tell him of his promotion to the Test squad.

"It was a surprise, though it had been at the back of my mind after the talk in the newspapers," Hollioake said. "If I play, I am sure I will not let anyone down."

"Although my form for Surrey has been so-so I am confident I can raise my game. I will not mind if Adam plays and I do not... he has

done more to deserve it."

Adam, six years older, believes that Ben has almost caught him up in terms of cricketing development. "Hopefully, he will get all the attention now because he likes it. When I told my parents I had been selected, they were delighted. When I told them that Ben was in as well, I think it was a bit much for them to handle."

"This is a game we have to win. I wouldn't be so optimistic as to think I will be solely responsible for injecting spirit into the side but I'd like to think I could influence it."

Contrasting styles bring harmony to Glamorgan

IT IS not difficult to see why Glamorgan are doing so well this season. Steve James, for a start, is scoring so many runs that there would be a clamour for his inclusion in the England team if he played for a more fashionable county.

Wagor Younis has lost no time in proving that he can still knock batsmen over for a pastime. Hugh Morris and Steve Watkins are perfect foils to the leading batsman and bowler respectively, and while Robert Croft has been going through agencies for England, Dean Cosker has emerged as the most promising left-arm spinner in the country.

There are deeper reasons, however, why Glamorgan have climbed to the top of the county championship and progressed to the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy. They are to be found in the unlikely partnership between Matthew Maynard, an impulsive captain if ever there was one, and Duncan Fletcher, who looks more like the data processor he was for more than 20 years than the coach he has become.

Fletcher's greatest claim to cricketing fame is that he captained Zimbabwe to their sensational 13-run victory over Australia at Trent Bridge in the 1983 World Cup, scoring 69 not out with his combative left-hand batting and taking six for 42 with his right-arm fast-medium bowling.

He never played Test cricket because he had retired by the time Zimbabwe entered the arena but, in his native Rhodesia, as it was then known, he was reckoned to be the best all-rounder since Mike Procter. His playing career stretched from 1969 to 1985, by which time he had emigrated to South Africa where he had a

commerce and industry. A lot of counties leave it to the captain to make all the decisions but I believe in a collective management system.

"Matthew tends to fire from the hip a bit and there's nothing wrong with that. He is a very positive cricketer who loves the game and I think he is doing a very good job. I tend to sit back and think a little bit longer instead of rushing into things and maybe that makes a good combination."

Maynard could not agree more. "I think that if both captain and coach are exactly the same, things might not always work out. We are different. I am quite spontaneous whereas he is a bit more studious. I doubt whether he was like that as player but as a coach he is very meticulous."

"He does not just look at the overall picture; he tears it into a thousand pieces and studies every one. He throws ideas at us all the time, which is brilliant. That is the sign of a quality coach and he's certainly brought some good things to Glamorgan cricket."

So much so that Glamorgan would love to have him back for a few more years but that will depend on Western Province. "Glamorgan have approached me and I hope I don't let them down by leaving it too late," Fletcher said, "but I've got to get back to South Africa and see what happens there."

"Maybe Western Province will let me come back because there is no doubt that, while I hope I have passed over some ideas to Glamorgan, I've certainly learnt a lot about cricket from being over here and that could be of benefit to South Africa."



Maynard: impulsive

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THE TIMES

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CRICKET

Australians at odds with crowd behaviour

By SIMON WILDE

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 108 runs ahead of the Australians.

THE Australians scarcely needing to improve their cricket (they are quite good enough at the game and have been on the road in South Africa and England for 22 of the past 25 weeks), they would not have been unduly concerned that the penultimate day of their match with Somerset fell victim to unrelenting rain yesterday. They did not even leave their hotel.

There may have been a shortage of cricket, but not of talk. In the aftermath of the extraordinary events of Saturday afternoon, when, during the final session, these most hard-bitten of cricketers demanded that action be taken against a few isolated, but evidently intoxicated, members of the Taunton crowd.

The object of the bad mouthing — predictably enough — was Shane Warne, who responded twice by stopping during his approach to the wicket. The matter was taken up with the umpires by Steve Waugh, the acting captain of the Australians. Nigel Pless and John Steele summoned the Somerset twelfth man, who fetched Peter Anderson, the Somerset chief executive.

A few miscreants were identified and two men ejected from the ground by police, although no charges were laid. Somerset have promised to tighten their policy for future matches and next Sunday, when neighbouring Gloucestershire visit, non-members will be screened before being admitted.

There is no question that the behaviour of a handful of spectators was totally unacceptable and removal from the ground a deserving response. It is also the case that some of

the crowd behaviour towards the Australians this year has been worse than in 1993.

But the Australians have been taking stick for years and they have not complained before. Even when they returned in February to Johannesburg, where some poisonous language was directed at them three years ago, they simply steered themselves and went out and beat South Africa by an innings.

Things need to be kept in perspective, as Anderson pointed out. At the time the Australians made their protests, Turner and Ecclestone, the Somerset second-wicket pair, were proving particularly troublesome to remove. If play was held up to sort out every heckler few games would proceed smoothly — and barely any in Australia.

Now we have Waugh, a sure pick in many people's Sledgers' XI, saying: "We can take a bit of heckling but this was just too personal."

This is not the first time of late that the Australians have indulged in a spot of whistle-blowing. Since voicing their suspicions of attempted match-fixing two years ago, they have refused to play cricket in Sri Lanka because of security fears, called for a corruption clean-up in the organisation of World Cups and protested about bungled English efforts at pitch-fixing.

Perhaps they view themselves as the policemen of world cricket; perhaps they are experiencing mid-tour blues.

Granted a full day's play today, they could win again. Once Ecclestone and Turner had been separated, Warne quickly removed Lathwell. With Keith Parsons unable to bat — he broke a finger dropping Waugh — Somerset may do well to extend their second innings into the afternoon.

ANDY PARTRIDGE



The Kent wicketkeeper, Steve Marsh, completes the run-out of Curtis, of Worcestershire, as Hick looks back in anguish

Young could win vote over Walsh

By RICHARD HOBSON

EVEN some of the Gloucestershire staff had to ask "Shaun who?" when the identity of the overseas replacement for Courtney Walsh was revealed earlier this year. It says much for the impact made by Shaun Young that he may be re-engaged next season — a decision is imminent — even if Walsh is available.

The Jamaican remains one of the finest fast bowlers in the world and has given unstinted service to the county, but Young has been a big influence in Gloucestershire's push towards their first championship success.

He has scored 632 runs at an average of almost 40 and taken 28 wickets at 20 apiece with his brisk medium-pace.

Philip August, the Gloucestershire cricket secretary, described his innings of 237 against Derbyshire last month as the best he had seen in 12 festivals at Cheltenham. There are other considerations. The absence of Walsh, according to David Graveney, the chairman of the England selectors, is a significant reason for the development of Mike Smith into a Test-match bowler (albeit briefly, it would appear). Smith has risen to the challenge of becoming the main strike bowler, just as Mark Alleyne is enjoying his best season, having replaced Walsh as captain.

Young, 27, is being rested for the game against Pakistan A at Bristol, where play was washed out yesterday. He spent the end of last week as a

guest of David Boon, his fellow Tasmanian.

A member of the Australia A team that toured England two years ago, Young was due to play league cricket for Fleetwood before Gloucestershire moved in. Dave Gilbert, the Surrey coach, and Terry Alderman, another Australian who gave sterling service to Gloucestershire, offered glowing references for a powerful man who chose cricket ahead of Australian Rules as a teenager.

"Having seen county cricket from the outside, I knew it would be a grind but I did not realise just how tiring it would become," Young said. "People cannot appreciate that unless they have tried to play practically day in, day out for weeks at a time. It is

not the right way to produce a good England side.

"Mark Ramprakash is the best player I have come up against so far: he battles fantastically on a difficult pitch at Bristol. After him, the hardest opponents have all been Aussies. That reflects the strength of our game back home."

Asked to explain Gloucestershire's unexpected success — they lie second in the county championship table — he pointed out similarities between his adopted county and Tasmania. "People told me that performances did not always reflect our ability. It seems that everybody has moved up a cog or two, worked hard and taken the opportunities that have come along."

Pace puts Moody in batting league of his own

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss): Match abandoned, Worcestershire (2pts), Kent (2)

KENT were fourth and Worcestershire sixth, before the drizzle turned into rain just after 3.30. The ground was crowded with that peculiarly intense audience this league inspires. The Sunday crowd watches every ball with the commitment usually reserved for the Stretford End at Manchester United. Neutrality, indeed impartiality, is not expected and hardly accepted.

It was fortuitous that the home element should be rewarded with one of those numerical footnotes that cricketers and statisticians love. In the course of his 20 runs, Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, became the fastest player to 4,000 runs in the Sunday league, reaching this figure in 100 matches. Barry Richards, the previous fastest, reached that total in 1976 during his 106th match for Hampshire.

Moody, unaware of this distinction until it occurred, had the chivalrous good sense to say: "It's an honour to be associated with any record that bears the name of a player of the quality of Barry Richards."

He may have been casting his mind back to the ramshackle progress of the Worcestershire innings. Moody would have been caught at slip (had there been one) off Dean Headley in the third over: Tim Curtis, when 19, was dropped at deep square leg off Martin McCague's first ball. Curtis was run out, calling for a single, when Graeme Hick played no further than backward point. That reflects the strength of our game back home.

Asked to explain Gloucestershire's unexpected success — they lie second in the county championship table — he pointed out similarities between his adopted county and Tasmania. "People told me that performances did not always reflect our ability. It seems that everybody has moved up a cog or two, worked hard and taken the opportunities that have come along."

After that Kent had to be grateful for the rain, for nothing is more certain than that Hick would have played them mercilessly. As it was, he produced one broadsword of a pull/sweep that brought only four runs when the power on show suggested at least 12.

Rain saves Surrey as Hollioakes celebrate Test call-up

By JOHN STERN

LORD'S (Surrey won toss): Match abandoned, Middlesex (2 pts), Surrey (2)

THE sight of Surrey's gold pennant, signifying their triumph in the Benson and Hedges Cup final here last month, fluttering above the visitors' dressing-room offered inspiration only to their hosts, whose form in the Axa Life League had hitherto been lamentable.

Middlesex, though, were unable to complete their third Sunday victory of the season because of rain. Aside from the Test call-up of Adam Hollioakes, the Surrey captain, and of course, his brother Ben — although England under-19 duty kept him away from Lord's and the attendant media scrum — this was a miserable day for Surrey men.

Their England players, in particular, suffered on a pitch that was used for Middlesex's NatWest quarter-final last week against Warwickshire. Having won the toss, Hollioakes watched his side collapse to 12 for four and then 62 for seven.

Alec Stewart opened, as he will do at Trent Bridge, and was dismissed for a duck in the third over, caught at the wicket by David Nash. Graham Thorpe also made no run, cutting Angus Fraser to Mike Gatting at point. At least he can look forward to more Test cricket next week, unlike Mark Butcher, who gave Nash his second catch off the bowling of Jamie Hewitt. His frustration at both dismissal and omission manifested itself in him flicking the stumps with his bat as he passed, an action that rightly displeased both umpires.

Chris Lewis brought a pleasing amount of application to his role and was unbeaten on 34 when the rain came after 23 overs with Surrey 74 for seven. Hollioakes progressed into double figures but was bowled by a ball from Jacques Kallis that kept low. Jason Ratcliffe was caught behind off Tim Bloomfield and Ian Ward followed the next ball.

Lehmann's best paves the way for Yorkshire

By IVO TENNANT

HEADINGLEY (Northamptonshire won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Northamptonshire by 38 runs

YORKSHIRE have had to contend with numerous distractions down the years, but the counter-attraction of rugby league at Headingley during the summer has not been one of them.

So, they brought forward the start of this Axa Life League match by two hours and gained a larger crowd than usual. Darren Gough, who has a sore knee, did not take part in their victory over Northamptonshire but is expected to be fit enough to bowl today, and for England at Trent Bridge this week.

On a slow pitch of low bounce, Yorkshire deployed three spinners, Stemp, Vaughan and Lehmann, to good effect. Indeed, the Australian, like Bevan, his compatriot and predecessor in this side, feels he can make quite a contribution other than with the bat. His figures of three for 43 were his best in any form of the game, achieved with what, even in Sunday cricket, was orthodox left-arm spin.

When Curran was in partnership with Bailey, adding 59, Northamptonshire did have a chance. They needed 94 off the last ten overs, which was not entirely out of the question. Almost inevitably, though, wickets fell when the run rate was not maintained.

Curran made 57 off 61 balls, with two fours and three sixes, before he drove a half-volley back to Lehmann. There had been a similar display of hitting earlier in the afternoon from McGrath, who struck four sixes, including two in one over from Taylor. When he was well held at long-off by Emburey, he had struck 63 off 51 balls.

There were runs, too, for White, whose half-century came from 55 balls, and Byas, 42 off 42 balls. In the closing overs, Morris came in and struck six fours in his innings of 35. It was not a bad match, and quite a number of the crowd would have moved on, but because in tow, to shout for the Leeds Rhinos. Cricket and rugby league have not made for easy companions in the past, but yesterday there was quite a sporting day out for those who were interested.

Lewis proves a thorn in Derbyshire's side

By JACK BAILEY

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Durham won toss): Durham (4pts) beat Derbyshire by five wickets

THIS match ended a bleak few days for Derbyshire, a period of rare riches for Durham. If you want to send any of the Derbyshire team into a frenzy, just mention the name Jonathan Lewis. He followed his match-winning century on Saturday by steering his team to victory in this Axa Life League match yesterday.

Derbyshire's hopes had been raised when Speight and Boon were out in quick succession after adding 88 runs for the third wicket. Boon, untypically, chattering down the wicket on the wrong track to the wrong ball.

At 120 for four and chasing Derbyshire's 181, Durham were in danger. But Lewis, who is averaging nearly 60 in this competition, and the injured Roseberry, almost saw Durham home. Lewis was out with the scores level, but Durham won with 12 balls to spare. Roseberry lifted his Sunday league average for the season to 122 and the atmosphere at Chester le Street was close to ecstatic.

Derbyshire were without their high-flying Dominic Cork, laid low by a virus infection. It was another England all-rounder, Philip DeFreitas, their captain, who gave them a fighting chance of salvaging something from their week in the North East.

Although Rollins and, later, Barnett, kept the score moving, they did so with difficulty as wickets continued to fall regularly. Betts and Brown did most of the early damage, the pitch yielding the occasional dose of extravagant assistance — as when Barnett was torpedoes. There is no other word for it.

When Barnett left at 107 for five, DeFreitas took over. He plundered 19 from one over by Wood and reached 45 from 29 balls. For the first time in Derbyshire's innings, the bat had gained ascendancy.

Batting came more easily for Durham. Boon and Speight brought the game within Durham's grasp without much trouble. Had Boon not had his rush of blood, he, not Lewis, might have been there at the end and Lewis, for once, might have had to play second fiddle.

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The Times examines how the MacLaurin report is going to affect cricket at all levels

Game-plan shows compromise as way forward

Alan Lee sees a new-look championship at the heart of an overdue blueprint for the future



MacLaurin: committed

They will not know it for sure until the season has only a week to run, but for the clubs pursuing the county championship this year there is an appealing, additional incentive. Whoever wins will be the last in a distinguished line before the oldest domestic competition in the world reinvents itself in barely recognisable form.

In theory, no more than 20 people know the details of the strategic plan that is to be presented to the counties at Lord's tomorrow. In practice, it is thought that if the proposals are endorsed on September 15, the championship will be split into three divisions as of next season.

As the divisions are apparently to be seeded to seek equality and there will not, as yet, be promotion and relegation, it can be seen that the authors of the plan, Lord MacLaurin of Knobworth and Tim Lamb, have fallen back on a somewhat curious compromise that will delight few, but will have the short-term virtue of alienating even fewer.

From the outset, Lord MacLaurin has been committed to change. This determination will extend, no doubt,

to his plans for the lower reaches of the game and his vision of a more seamless transition from recreational to professional cricket. Yet it is on what he proposes at the top level that he will be judged and the counties will cast their votes.

The theory that the championship could remain unaltered and that increased prize-money alone could cure its ills appalled him. "We cannot throw money at mediocrity," he has often said. So the championship, the shop window of his domestic refit, needed to be snappier, shorter and more competitive, while remaining inoffensive to the dinosaurs that still rule the game. It was a devilishly difficult balancing act.

It is understood that the first obstacle towards acceptance of the package has already been overcome. Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has gained the unanimous backing of the 16-man management board, a body that includes a number of county delegates, including the arch reactionary, Peter Edwards, of Essex.

The counties, which are to be

given six weeks to debate the recommendations, with, if required, further counselling from Lord MacLaurin and Lamb, will now seem churlish in the extreme if they reject it. I believe that they would also be risking the wrath of their players, who are committed to change and united in their desire to support the actions of a chairman to whom they have warmed.

The Professional Cricketers' Association, under its general secretary, David Graveney, has become more organised and more vocal. The players are aware that they possess the ultimate sanction of refusing to play if their employers persist with an obsolete structure. Militancy should not be ruled out if the cosy cliques of the shires vote for the status quo.

It has been an exciting but unenviable task for Lord MacLaurin and Lamb to restructure the game radically enough to make a

difference but sensitively enough to win the vital backing of traditionalist county committees. An authentic two-tier championship remains the ideal and I hope its introduction has merely been delayed. The interim measure suffers from complexities and illogicalities, but it does achieve the right amount of cricket and climb to a finale of sorts.

When the speculation ends tomorrow, I expect the high-profile end of the plan to include this reformed and reduced championship of 14 games. The conference fixtures seem bizarre, in that no team will play the others in its own division, but it will culminate attractively in round-robin play-offs during September between the teams in comparable positions in the divisions. Prize-money, it seems, will be substantially increased, to probably more than £100,000 to the winners, to preserve the primacy of the competition and help to increase the

intensity of the cricket. It is also understood that one limited-overs competition will belatedly be scrapped and the remaining two will both take a new identity. The NatWest Trophy will be expanded to 60 teams and there is to be a 50-overs league, played in two divisions — this one with promotion and relegation.

This last competition, if approved, is unashamedly a marketing vehicle, a money-spinner to compensate for the acknowledged fact that championship cricket, in whatever form, will not fill grounds. The 50-overs league is intended to replace the Sunday league and will, not apparently, be confined to a particular day of the week. Rather, it will have the flexibility of the football fixture list, with scope for festivals and, perhaps, regular floodlit matches on Friday evenings.

I understand television executives, when sounded out, voiced strong interest in this imaginative concept. The rest of us will be left to wonder if it was purely to appease the small-minded intransigence of many counties that a logical 16-

match programme is evidently to be inflated to 25 to allow for cross-division fixtures.

Honesty should dictate that Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB, confesses when he presents the plan tomorrow that it was drawn up under certain constraints. It is far from ideal. Indeed, superficially, it takes English cricket far, into a gridlock of one-day games and farther away from the paces of high-intensity, four-day cricket as preparation for Test matches. At least under this plan, however, the limited-overs cricket has a pattern and a purpose.

Among other matters that Lamb must seek to explain tomorrow is why it is felt there is now no need to contract England players centrally, why overseas players are still to be permitted in the county game and how it is proposed that the additional gaps in the fixture programme created by this plan will be used for activities that benefit the players rather than activities for the players' benefit funds.

Letters, page 19

ADRIAN SHEPPARD

Village postman slogs Shipton closer to Lord's

The Cotswold village pubs were just emptying after lunch and rain was falling steadily on an otherwise idyllic scene as Eddie Rees wheeled in to deliver the first ball of the most important match of his life. His busy action climaxed in an expansive delivery stride and he fell flat on his face.

A twisted knee and a red face notwithstanding, Rees recovered to bowl four overs before hobbling off. The quarter-final of the National Village Championships went on without him in the kind of relentlessly wet weather that would have sent professionals hurrying back to their hotels.

For the best part of three hours, the Welshmen of Miskin Manor tolerated these conditions, their flannels sopping and muddled like Llanelli rugby players in January, while Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire's championship village side, amassed 284 for six. Shipton then felt honour bound to return the compliment and get soaked themselves.

Remarkably, several hundred stayed to watch, the Shiptonians ringing cowbells whenever a boundary was hit, the coachload from Miskin sampling the local brew. They sat on straw bales donated by a local farmer, or sheltered under the lime trees, and the atmosphere was determinedly jolly.

This was village cricket at its



A lonely walk nears its end for Macdonald, of Shipton

Rural cricket displays its traditional charms as the game awaits

Lord MacLaurin's opts

best and Lord MacLaurin would not have disapproved. Throughout the compiling of his momentous blueprint, he has stressed a policy of no interference with what he calls "the fabric of our society". In other words, the village game.

There is, however, a narrowing distinction these days between the belt-and-braces village cricket of tradition and the stratum of club cricket at which Lord MacLaurin will be addressing a whole raft of proposals.

Tomorrow, he will recommend a new network of premier leagues, perhaps involving two-day matches, interacting both with the county clubs above them and the feeder leagues beneath.

He will also ask clubs to consider excluding overseas players. It is estimated there are now up to 10,000 of them, which would be a preposterous figure even if they did not dominate games so often. Three years ago, Shipton played a league match against Leigham Buzzard and found themselves bowling at Matthew Elliott.

There were no foreigners playing yesterday and the

occasion was better for it. Shipton, although they do not pretend to be the focus of village life, do have a team of locals. Even Sam Mendes, the theatre director and their token celebrity, qualifies through his weekend cottage nearby.

The heroes of the win yesterday actually live in the village. They also share the round build beloved of those who caricature the game at this level. Jon Hartley, a surveyor whose home is a six-hit from the ground, made 75 and the village postman, Jason Constable, struck 30 from 11 balls in six-and-out style.

Constable had taken part in an incongruous session of team calisthenics on the outfield before play and the apeing of professionals, until recently alien to village cricket, continued with batting helmets, sliding stops in the field and bottles of Gatorade rather than pints of Hook Norton for between overs.

Inside the green pavilion, tea was under way. A rota was pinned on the notice-board, next to a poster advertising the club dance with "The fabulous Betty Swollocks Band", and the name Elaine appeared almost every week.

Every village club depends on the likes of Elaine, and on their equivalent of Anthony Prior-Wandestorpe, Shipton's groundsman and general factotum. Earlier this year, the willing APW, as he is known, thought the idle majority were taking advantage and went on strike for a month. The club was reduced to chaos.

Village cricket is essentially make-do. Shipton have a set of roll-on covers but they were made by the secretary's father-in-law in his village garage. The roller was bought second-hand, the sightcreens made by members and, only last week, the pavilion received a lick of paint from the chairman's two sons.

It has always been this way and, at this level, the MacLaurin report will change nothing. The closest Shipton could come to a brush with the blueprint will be a game at Lord's — and they are now just one match away from the village game's greatest prize.

ALAN LEE



Jonathan Sale, the captain of Old Tonbridgians, hits Richard Graham square on the off side at Vincent Square yesterday

Final flourish allows Bradfield to reign

Well-schooled cricketers remain vital to continued future of the game at all levels, as proved by the Cricketer Cup

For three miserable hours yesterday, as Bradfield Waifs and Old Tonbridgians waited for the rain to clear, it seemed that the Cricketer Cup final at Roehampton would be a marvellous day out, but an inconclusive one. The weather improved, however, and Bradfield reached the 179 they needed to win inside 31 overs, to retain the trophy for the old boys of public schools.

Bradfield College, captained by Mark Nicholas, of Hampshire, Sky Television and The Daily Telegraph, won the cup for the first time last year and did well to bowl out Tonbridge, who won the toss, for 178. Their opponents, whose most famous old boy, Sir Colin Cowdrey, has recently been ennobled as Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge, are the most successful team in the competition's 31-year history, having gathered seven victories.

Stuart Seymour, 22, who plays for Wokingham and occasionally for Berkshire, propelled Bradfield towards victory with 93 in 84 balls. A hundred seems to be just

beyond him. In the semi-final he made 96 against Old Cliftonians.

Steve Bridgman, promoted to open the innings, shared a stand of 140 in 23 rollicking overs before he was out for 52. This batting, allied to some niggardly bowling and fine fielding, was the highlight of an excellent Bradfield performance.

At 38, Nicholas is the oldest member of the Bradfield team, which contradicts the belief that this is just a competition for middle-aged weekend loafers. Nick Denning, a bowler who left the Berkshire school this summer, was selected as the captain's behest. "Our cricket after lunch was superb," Nicholas said. "You won't see much better fielding than that's for sure."

The public schools, 32 of whom challenge annually for the Cricketer Cup, have long formed the bedrock of Eng-

lish cricket. They still do, to the occasional outrage of people who see them as repositories of funny accents and strange customs. But the world is more various than that and, as Nicholas pointed out as he waited for the rain to clear, "this competition is what the game is all about. It has given me some of the most enjoyable days of my cricketering life."

In recent weeks public school cricket has been the butt of many topical jokes, after the extensive news coverage given to two of the country's most famous establishments. Marlborough and Radley broke off diplomatic relations after a match last month when both teams appeared to misunderstand the other's motives. "Time-wasters," accused Radley. "Sledgers," replied Marlborough with interest.

Peter Smith, the headmaster of Bradfield, who used to captain Oxfordshire in his

own playing days, is sad that the row was allowed to develop into a full-blown imbroglio.

"The quality and competitiveness of sport at schools such as this, he believes, is now important, perhaps too important, for everybody — boys, parents and teachers. There are no league tables, as there are for academic results, but as he says, "every school likes to think it will win more than its share of matches."

He has not seen anything untoward on his own playing fields. "What the players tend to do is shout from third man, make too much noise between balls, and overreact at the fall of a wicket. But on the whole they behave themselves, and so do their opponents."

Nor has he sensed anything odd about the behaviour of visiting teams from overseas, despite recent allegations of verbal abuse in matches with English schools.

"In the last couple of years

we have entertained sides from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, and I would say that, without exception, they conducted themselves in a highly disciplined way. To suggest that they are responsible for bringing in bad habits is not at all true."

Where standards of play are concerned he doesn't see a lot of good schoolboy bowlers. "You see a lot of good batsmen but you don't often see a bowler who makes you sit up and take notice. All schools cover their pitches these days, and so there is little encouragement for the bowler to attack because they get clobbered through the covers all the time."

At the end, shortly before eight o'clock, Colin Ingledoy-Mackenzie, the president of MCC, presented Nicholas with the cup. The Cricketer is searching high and low for a new sponsor. Surely somebody, somewhere would welcome some involvement with this competition.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

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RACING: DANETIME EARNS TILT AT NUNTHORPE STAKES AFTER LANDING STEWARDS' CUP GAMBLE

Tabor prepared to raise the stakes

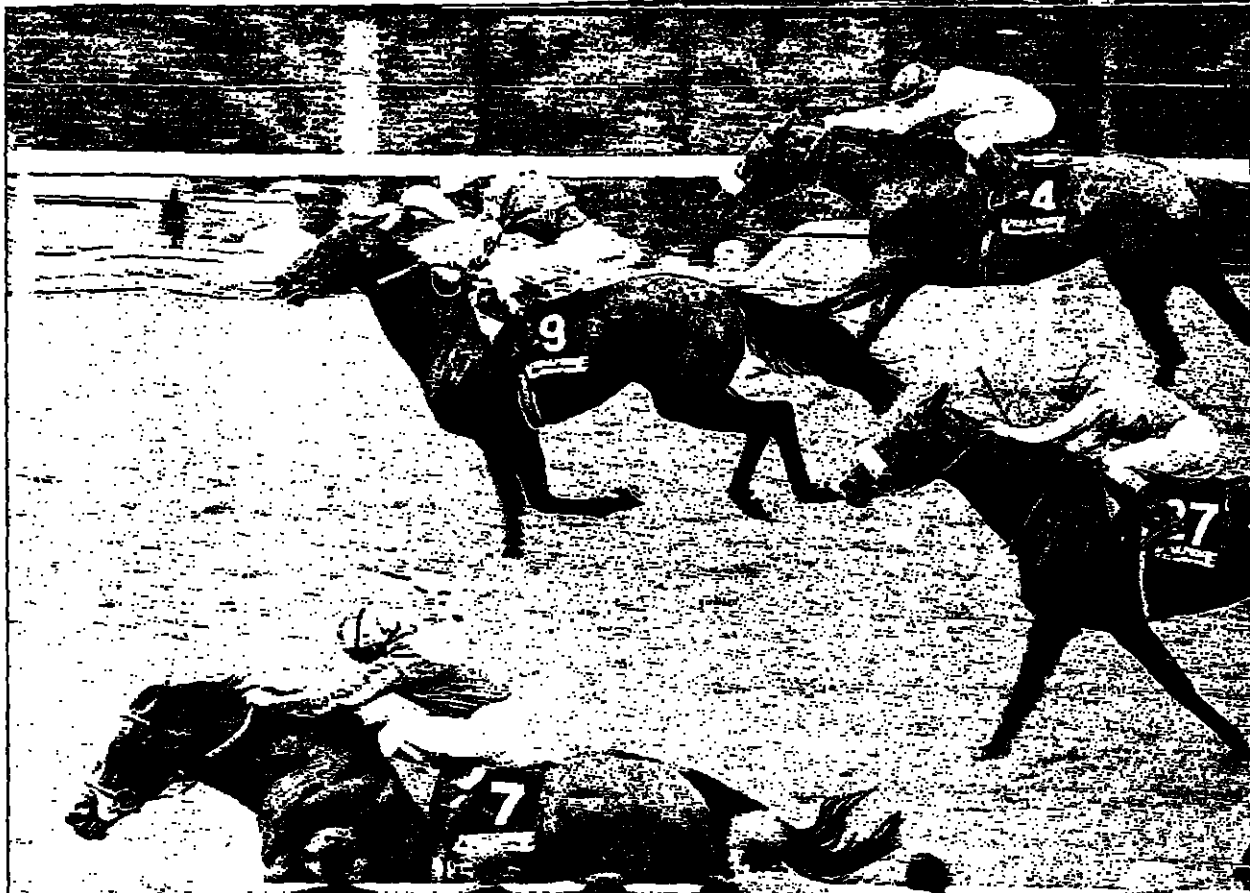
By Chris McGrath

THERE is never a dull moment for Michael Tabor these days — even if he barely seemed able to suppress a yawn at Goodwood on Saturday when the photo-finish indicated that Danetime had won by more than £200,000. He is equally impassive in victory and defeat. We may not have long to wait, however, before an auctioneer's cry of excitement betrays his true feelings about the stakes.

Danetime, who bravely landed the latest of gambles in the Vodafone Stewards' Cup, is likely to seek consideration as champion sprinter in the Nunthorpe Stakes at York on August 21. But Tabor's blue and orange silks may already have claimed centre stage on the opening day of that meeting as Entrepreneur resumes his career in the Juddmonte International Stakes.

Since the colts' Derby failure, Michael Stoute has been waiting the 2,000 Guineas winner at arm's length, patiently waiting for his lameness to ebb away. On Saturday, however, he worked with renewed vigour and he now looks ready to have the gloves removed.

Tabor admitted yesterday that he is hopeful of Entrepreneur returning to the fray at York, albeit applying his customary caveat: "It all depends on whether Michael is happy with him, but that would seem the place to go if he is." It is a would, this. It has already been a vintage summer, thanks to the older horses.



Danetime has a neck to spare over My Best Valentine, far side, in a thrilling finish to the Stewards' Cup

York could yet provide the three-year-olds, through Entrepreneur and Benny The Dip, with a memorable platform to take on Bosra Sham and possibly Swain.

If Entrepreneur's failure at Epsom was chastening, it was not enough to erode his owner's

bravado; still less so, the heroic failure of Danetime in the Wokingham at Royal Ascot. Rarely can a horse have run so much faster than his rivals and failed to win. But Tabor knows all about the whims of Lady Luck — he lives in Monaco, where she is

courted so obsessively, and made his millions in currency speculation. "However good your horse," he repeated yesterday, "there is always the chance that something will happen that you can't account for in advance."

But that doesn't stop him

trying. As his jubilant entourage slapped backs and cried in the Goodwood winner's enclosure, Tabor calmly elaborated why a man who can afford to lose so much should bother trying to win. "It is a question of being right of ego, if you like, though ego can

ruin people. We all have our pride, and nobody likes to make a fool of himself. The line is very fine between victory and defeat. That's one of the beauties of racing."

At Ascot, the line had been very fine indeed — and it was scarcely less so at Goodwood, where Danetime was poorly drawn and insulted by the fast going. "We've 19 days until York and I think we would take our chance if the ground comes our way, and he's all right," Neville Callaghan, his trainer, said yesterday. "He has a lot of speed, so dropping to five furlongs won't bother me, and the sprinters don't look that great this year. He is entitled to take them on."

While the interval between Goodwood and York is rather anomalous on the domestic scene, there is some ritz entertainment at Deauville throughout August. But yesterday's Prix d'Astaire left punters beached, with Daneska, a 17-1 outsider trained by André Fabre, beating Rebecca Sharp, the Coronation Stakes winner who had disappointed behind Ryafan in the Falom Stakes.

Ryafan herself won the Nassau Stakes in fine style at Goodwood on Saturday, but her Newmarket victim, Ocean Ridge, took her turn to disappoint before folding into sixth. By contrast, Waterbury Affair made the running with gusto for a game win in the Prix de Pomme and Strugler captured the Prix de Carle.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S SEVEN MEETINGS

Goodwood

Going: good to firm

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Skater hockey is Britain's fastest-growing sport. Justin Penrose reports on the game played at breakneck speed



The equipment for skater hockey is expensive if you want to become seriously involved

Tough game that really is all-action

The thrill of scoring a goal, playing a great shot or taking a wicked... there is no experience to rival an adrenalin-pumping action sport.

However, for all the excitement that these physical pastimes generate, it is difficult to name many sports that do not lapse into a leisurely pace at some time during a match. It could be argued that complete all-action sports are uncommon at any level. However, like ice hockey, skater hockey is one of the few sports in which the thrill and excitement never slows.

Skater hockey is Britain's fastest-growing sport. Formerly known as street hockey, it allows mixed teams to compete at breakneck speed. Played on traditional quad or the quicker in-line skates, with a ball rather than a puck, the game has two halves of 20 minutes. Four outfield players and a goalkeeper are on the pitch at any one time and unlimited substitutions are allowed.

When I joined the Pine Grove Pythons for a training session at the Pine Grove Country Club in Sheffield, the members of the team, aged 14 to 17, made the art of gliding around look easy enough to persuade me that learning to skate would not be all that difficult.

However, after I had tum-



bled to the floor several times. I marvelled at the skill of these skaters. "To play in a match, it's not possible just to turn up and say, 'I fancy having a game of that,'" Gordon Inglis, head of coaching at the British Skater Hockey Association (BHSa), says. "If you are not a competent skater and you haven't the kit, then you can't be crashing into each other. It's a matter of safety."

Most young people get into the sport by playing "pick-up" games in car parks, playgrounds or the street. People are attracted to the sport by watching ice hockey. However, to play the game on ice involves a huge outlay for equipment. All that is needed for a "pick-up" game is a stick, a ball and skates.

Andrew Yearley, 15, a founding member of the Pythons, says: "You have to buy a lot of kit if you want to play ice

hockey, but you can play on the street for a few pounds. We started in the playground at school, but after about a year, as we became more skilled on the skates, we wanted to play against other opposition."

After discovering the thrill of skater hockey in streets, many participants are contacting the BHSa to join regional leagues. Stella van der Geyten, the BHSa's general secretary, says: "The interest in the sport has exploded over the past couple of years. We now have regional associations in every area, which is something that has never happened before."

Though the sport is growing rapidly, the problem for many is the cost of getting the equipment and padding necessary to play in the leagues. Because it is a physical contact sport, protective clothing is essential. The ball is solid

plastic and as hard as a cricket ball.

Mr Inglis comments: "The kit is necessary. Without it, it is not possible — for safety reasons — to participate in games against each other. It's

up to people if they want to have a knockabout on the car park, but it is a risk.

"When one of our lads winds up for a shot I don't wonder, 'Oh no, who's that going to hit?' because I know

that they are all fully kitted." This does not prohibit those who lack all the equipment from getting involved. The best way of improving skating skills and learning about the game is to attend training

sessions with a BHSa-recognised coach. These sessions are becoming more common as the sport grows. Anthony Toner, father of one of the Pythons, says: "Two years ago there weren't any

leagues in this area, but now we're having to split the leagues to accommodate the new teams springing up. This sport is not a flash in the pan. There are a lot of kids getting interested. If you look around, you'll see kids on the streets rollerblading with sticks in their hands."

Indeed, with the growing interest in skating, it is perhaps inevitable that the sport will grow accordingly. The thrill of skater hockey is easy to see on the faces of the enthusiastic young players.

As an action sport, it is perhaps rivalled only by ice hockey. The more accessible nature of skater hockey suggests, however, that the game is bound to go from strength to strength.

Give it some stick: four outfield players and a goalkeeper are on the pitch at any one time. Unlimited substitutions are allowed.

THE COST OF SAFETY

LIKE any sport involving a large amount of equipment, skater hockey is expensive if you want to become seriously involved. However, if you are content to play simple "pick-up" games on the street or in car parks, then the cost is far lower.

In the interests of safety, the best way to play the game is to get in touch with your local skater hockey association, which will put you in

contact with a recognised coach. The cost of the initial outlay depends on the level you want to reach. You can buy skates for as little as £50, but the cheapest stick is £12.

"However, the amount of padding that is necessary for complete safety is phenomenal. The amount of kit required to take part in a league is likely to be more than £200. The best plan is to go to a training

session and learn the skills while building up your equipment. If cost is a big worry, then the goalkeeper position is best avoided. Extra padding inflates the cost of this equipment to at least £500.

Further information: Stella van der Geyten, general secretary, British Skater Hockey Association, Grimsby, Chiddingfold Road, Horam, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 0HT.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Oxford University (Paul and Alex Fearnhead, Luke Kerr, Robin Presnwich, Steve Noble and Suzanne Cohen) overcame a 60 IMP half-time deficit to beat Cambridge 103-183 in the 1997 Varsity match. On this hand Mrs Fearnhead missed two straightforward chances to beat Four Spades, but eventually rescued herself with a spectacular shot out of the bunker.

Dealer South Love all IMPs

♠ J 9	♥ A K Q 3	♦ A 10 9 7 4	♣ Q 3
♠ K 6 5 3	♥ 8 4	♦ 7 5 2	♣ 8 6 3 2
♠ A 8 7 4 2	♥ 10 9 8	♦ 10 9 8	♣ K J 10 6 5
	♠ A Q 10 8 2	♥ 7 5 2	♦ 8 6 3 2
	♠ 9 8	♥ 7 5 2	♦ 8 6 3 2
S (1)	W	N	E
25 (1)	Pass	4 S	All Pass

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: eight of hearts

(1) A middle-of-the-road weak two, by undergraduate standards. The classic opening lead strategy when holding trump length is to lead your longest suit in an attempt to threaten declarer's trump control. If you're not convinced of the wisdom of this, consider declarer's chances after a club lead and continuation.

Mrs Fearnhead (West) rejected the club lead as being too committal, and tried a passive heart. Declarer won the ace and ran the jack of spades, ducked by West, and continued with the nine of spades to the ten and king. West exited with her remaining heart (missing a second chance to force South in clubs)

to put declarer in dummy, as East completed a pet in hearts to show an even number. Next declarer played ace and another diamond to West's king.

What did she know about the hand now? Declarer had shown up with five spades, and four diamonds. Partner's heart peter (and declarer's failure to try to return to hand) had only one club. So she switched to a low club, and East won and played back a heart for West to ruff and set the contract.

Robert Sheehan writes on Bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JACKANAPES
a. A child's game
b. Very tight trousers
c. A silly monkey

CALIMATIAS
a. A spell of fine weather
b. Cobberish
c. Boastfulness

MONSTRANCE
a. A two-storey entrance
b. Belief in monsters
c. A sacred receptacle

Answers on page 40

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

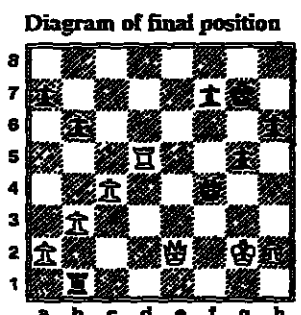
Championship preview

A possible dark horse contender for the Smith & Williamson British championship which starts today in Hove is grandmaster Tony Miles. His results have been up and down, but on his day, he can beat the best. Here is a win against a former world championship semi-finalist.

White: Jon Speelman
Black: Tony Miles
Hastings 1996

Slav Defence

1 d4	d5
2 Nf3	Nf6
3 c4	c6
4 e3	Bb5
5 Bc3	Bxc3
6 Qx3	e6
7 O-O	Se7
8 b3	O-O
9 Bb2	Nd4
10 Nf2	Nd7
11 Na2	d4
12 e4	Nc5
13 Nc4	Nc5
14 Nc5	Bc5
15 Rd1	Be7
16 f4	g6
17 g4	h6
18 f5	exf5
19 g5	Qd8
20 Qc2	Rd8
21 Kh1	Rf8
22 Qf2	g5
23 e5	b5
24 Qg2	h5
25 Bb6	Qd8
26 dxc6	Rd1
27 Rd1	Rc8
28 Qd4	Kg7
29 Kg2	Rc5
30 Kf3	Rf6
31 Qc2	Rf8



Mind challenge

To coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, The Times will be publishing daily mind challenges for the next two weeks with £10,000 worth of prizes. Today's challenges include scrabble and IQ (see page 8).

Chess variants

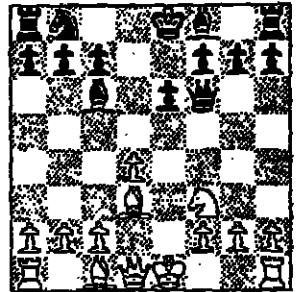
On Wednesday August 6, starting at 8pm, the Hampstead Chess Club are holding a chess variants tournament. This will be a six-round event with ten minutes per player per round. For details please ring 0956 311 015 (evenings only).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday, in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is an instructive trap which can arise from the French Defence. Black has allowed the possibility of 1 Bg5, apparently trapping his queen, as he anticipates the reply 1... Bx3, counter-attacking against the white queen, and winning a piece. What is the flaw in this logic?



Solution on page 40

SPORTS LETTERS

England need public support

From Mr Peter Thomas

Sir, I write from the old chief colony concerning the response, reported here, of the English to the travails of the Test team. Sacking the captain, making wholesale changes to the team, kicking the backside is what we read of.

England have chosen a team of able cricketers. They don't want to lose; they want to win. They oppose the old foe who, at the moment, are extremely good at what they do and highly motivated.

We are contesting the Ashes, so nobody should be remotely interested in taking prisoners. Surely at this stage in the campaign it makes no sense at all to destroy the confidence of your own team. They should be given wholehearted support until the end.

Gough's clinically perfect yorker that dismissed Elliott for 199 was in the right spirit as was the batting of Hussain and Crawley.

I believe and hope we will defeat you soundly, but surely you should support and urge your blokes on to make us pay dearly for the privilege.

Yours faithfully,
PETER THOMAS,
9 Carlisle Street,
Rose Bay,
NSW 2024, Australia.

From Mr Christopher Downs
Sir, Nothing appears to have changed since you published my letter (December 31, 1994) at the time of the debacle in Australia concerning the Eng-

land cricket team. It is a constant source of disappointment that our cricketers can be wholly ineffective, given they have the same physical characteristics as their opponents. They have feet which enable them to take the attack to the opposition. They have hands which allow them to take their catches. They have a brain which allows them to think.

Therein lies the difference. Atherton's obsession with survival and not losing makes him a cerebral loser. We have picked unimaginative teams, leaving our potential winners such as Malcolm, Brown, Tunnell, the Hollis brothers, Maynard, Adams and others who have positive attitudes towards winning.

The solution is as before. Relieve Atherton of the captaincy, open with Stewart, reinstate Russell, promote those batsmen, with the self-belief and the technique to play each ball on its merit. To see Wayne played from the crease is a sad reflection of the players' lack of assertiveness.

Make either Stewart or Adam Hollis captain and empower him to pick those he knows have the capability to perform on the world stage, thereby making every cricket lover proud of their team.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DOWNS,
Byways,
Brook Lane,
Billesdon,
Leicestershire.

Compromise open to question

From Mr J. M. Lascari

Sweetinburgh
Sir, It is difficult to see how the compromise between the Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), July 28, is going to achieve the aim of bridging the English game into line with the Bosman ruling, which there must have been a measure of progress if it is now recognised that Bosman applies to internal transfers and not just trans-national deals.

Bosman highlights the legal and moral presumption of free agency at the conclusion of a player's contract. There is nothing within that decision, when taken in the context of the doctrine of restraints, that would appear to enable the governing bodies to justify the imposition of a discriminatory based restraint.

The proposed rule is illogical as well as irrational. The best years of a player's career may be before or after he has attained the age of 23. At any time during a career the player needs the option to move on to another club once out of contract. Transfer fees

can be said to be unlawful restraints, as the tribunal mechanism, though well intended, still has the effect of detaching clubs from acquiring an out-of-contract player's services. A fee may still have to be paid and this the point becomes simple to understand: the expectation of the payment of a fee is the unjustifiable restraint.

It has already been decided by the US courts in *MacKay v NFL* (1976) that player development costs are an ordinary cost of business and not a sufficient reason to justify the restraint of a transfer fee. If the PFA-Premier League compromise is based on recovering development costs, it is probably open to challenge.

Best regards, the primary question: that remains for clubs, players and administrators alike: how long a player can be reasonably retained by a club subject to a right to transfer?

Yours faithfully,
J. M. LASCARI,
SWEETINBURGH,
8 Station Road,
Bottobridge, Devon.

I suggest the following:

1. Keep the existing preliminary rounds to determine pole and starting order for the race.
2. Start each car at five or ten second intervals in the order in which they qualified.
Thus, if car A (pole position) goes off ten seconds before car B, and car B crosses the line at the end of the race six seconds behind car A, then B wins. The present stipulation, especially on some of the higher tracks, is nothing short of a lottery. To see these expensive cars crashing out like stock cars is a pity.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GIBBONS,
The First House,
St Nicholas at Wade,
Barnstaple, Devon.

Golfing great

From Mr L. Fraser-Mitchell

Sir, The passing of Ben Hogan (report, July 26) will greatly sadden all lovers of golf, particularly of an older generation.

There will always be argument as to who was the best golfer ever, but Hogan will command the greatest support. Certainly, he was the first of an era of great professionals, followed by the likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack

Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tom Watson. His record of success has never been equalled.

Badly injured in a car crash, he was told by doctors that he would never be able to play again. With typical courage he fought back to health, and two years later won all the 11 leading tournaments played that year (1951).

Hogan was a shy, modest man and, because of his reserved manner, thought by many to be unfriendly, but all

who knew him well spoke warmly of him.

It is unlikely that we shall see his like again.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE FRASER-MITCHELL,
Fraser's Rest,
Briars Close,
Necton,
Swaffham, Norfolk.

هَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Legal aid can be relevant to forum

Connelly v RTZ Corporation plc and Another

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde [Speeches July 24]

On its true construction, section 31(1)(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 did not mean that on an application for a stay of proceedings on the principle of forum non conveniens, the fact that the plaintiff was in receipt of legal aid in this country could not be taken into account because the subsection provided that the receipt of legal aid "shall not affect... the principles on which the discretion of any court or tribunal is normally exercised".

In addition, the availability of financial assistance, whether legal aid or a conditional fee agreement, coupled with its non-availability in the more appropriate forum might exceptionally be a relevant factor when deciding whether or not to stay the English proceedings.

The House of Lords said: (i) in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connelly, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Sullivan) [1996] QB 301 upholding a decision of Sir John Wood sitting as a High Court judge that the plaintiff's action against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Overseas Services Ltd, should be stayed as an abuse of the availability of legal aid if the action was litigated in England was inconsistent with section 31(1)(b) of the 1988 Act and (ii) in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connelly, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Sullivan) [1996] QB 301 upholding a decision of Sir John Wood sitting as a High Court judge that the plaintiff's action against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Overseas Services Ltd, should be stayed as an abuse of the availability of legal aid if the action was litigated in England was inconsistent with section 31(1)(b) of the 1988 Act and (ii) in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connelly, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Sullivan) [1996] QB 301 upholding a decision of Sir John Wood sitting as a High Court judge that the plaintiff's action against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Overseas Services Ltd, should be stayed as an abuse of the availability of legal aid if the action was litigated in England was inconsistent with section 31(1)(b) of the 1988 Act.

Mr Michael Burton, QC, Mr Graham Read and Ms Anna Thomas for the plaintiff; Mr Sydney Kenridge, QC, Mr Brian

Dorset and Mr Charles Gibson for the defendants.

LORD GOFF said that the suggestion was that section 31(1)(b) had the effect that, in the case of an application for a stay of proceedings on the principle of forum non conveniens, the fact that the plaintiff was in receipt of legal aid in this country could not be taken into account because the subsection provided that the receipt of legal aid "shall not affect... the principles on which the discretion of any court or tribunal is normally exercised".

His Lordship found it surprising that the subsection should have that effect. It was understandable that, in matters arising in the course of legal proceedings in this country, the fact that one party was in receipt of legal aid should not be allowed to distort the legal process.

But, when it came to an application by the other party to stay proceedings brought in this country by a legally aided plaintiff on the ground of forum non conveniens, it was difficult to see why the fact that the plaintiff was legally aided, which would be taken into account on the application, should be excluded.

In such circumstances it was the extension of that fact, rather than its inclusion, which would distort the legal process. His Lordship was, however, satisfied that the subsection was never intended to apply in the case of applications for a stay on the ground of forum non conveniens. In such a case the question at issue was whether "the court was satisfied that there was some other tribunal, having competent jurisdiction in which the case might be tried more suitably for the interests of justice". See *Sim v Robinow* [1992] 19 R 665, 668.

It would be strange indeed if the application of so broad a principle of justice should be artificially curtailed by section 31(1)(b) of the

1988 Act so that the receipt by the plaintiff of legal aid was automatically excluded from the range of relevant considerations.

Certainly the policy underlying the subsection providing no explanation, still less justification, for so curtailing it. On its true construction the subsection did not have such effect.

For good measure, if section 31(1)(b) had that effect that would lead to the extraordinary result that conditional fee arrangements could be taken into account in that context but not the availability of legal aid.

Accordingly, the question arising on the two appeals could be considered simply on the basis of the principles applicable in cases of forum non conveniens, in relation to the availability of either legal aid or of a conditional fee arrangement.

It was accepted that the applicable principles were to be found in the decision of the House in *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Cansule Ltd* [1987] AC 460 drawn from the judgment of Lord Kilmuir in *Sim v Robinow*.

It was accepted by the plaintiff that the defendants had discharged the burden on them at the first stage of establishing that Namibia was the jurisdiction with which the action had the closest connection, with the effect that prima facie a stay should be granted.

The crucial question arose, therefore, whether a stay would nevertheless be refused because justice required on the grounds that the plaintiff could not proceed with the trial without financial assistance and that, whereas no such assistance was available in Namibia, it was available in England.

It was accepted by the plaintiff that the defendants had discharged the burden on them at the first stage of establishing that Namibia was the jurisdiction with which the action had the closest connection, with the effect that prima facie a stay should be granted.

advantageous to him than the English forum. He might for example have to accept lower damages or do without the more generous English system of discovery.

The starting position was, therefore, that at least as a general rule, the court would not refuse to grant a stay simply because the plaintiff had shown that no financial assistance would be available to him in the appropriate forum, whereas such financial assistance would be available to him in England.

Even so, the availability of financial assistance in this country, coupled with its non-availability in the appropriate forum, might exceptionally be a relevant factor in that context.

The question, however, remained whether the plaintiff could establish that substantial justice would not in the particular circumstances be done if the plaintiff had to proceed in the appropriate forum where no financial assistance was available.

That was in effect what was urged in the present case. There were two reasons for that. The first was that there was no practical possibility of the issues which arose in the case being tried without the plaintiff having the benefit of professional legal assistance and the second was that his case could not be developed before expert scientific witnesses. It was in dispute that in those circumstances the case could not be tried in Namibia.

His Lordship was satisfied that this was a case in which, having regard to the nature of the litigation, substantial justice could not be done if the plaintiff had to proceed in the appropriate forum where no financial assistance was available.

If the position had been that the plaintiff was seeking to take advantage of financial assistance available here to obtain a more expensive presentation of his case

rather than a more rudimentary presentation in the appropriate forum, it might well have been necessary to take a different view.

LORD HOFFMANN, agreeing on the construction of section 31(1)(b) but dissenting on the application of the principles stated in *Spiliada*, said the existence of neither legal aid nor conditional fee agreement was sufficient to displace the prima facie conclusion that Namibia was the appropriate forum for a trial of the case.

First, it was said that the plaintiff's lack of means and the complexity of the litigation made it in practice impossible for him to present his case effectively before the courts of Namibia. But the refusal of a stay on that ground could not be based upon any defensible principle.

It meant that the action of a rich plaintiff would be stayed while the action of a poor plaintiff in respect of precisely the same transaction would not. It meant that the more speculative and difficult the more likely it was to be allowed to proceed in this country with the support of public funds. Such distinctions would do the law no credit.

The second factor was that the defendants were English companies properly served within the jurisdiction. However, the defendant was a multinational company present almost everywhere and ready to be sued in Namibia. The presence of the defendants in the jurisdiction was a neutral factor.

If the presence of the defendants as parent company and local subsidiary of a multinational could enable them to be sued here, any multinational with its parent company in England would be liable to be sued here in respect of its activities anywhere in the world.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Davies Arnold Cooper.

Employer not liable for employee's fraud

Generale Bank Nederland NV (formerly Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland NV) v Export Credits Guarantee Department

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Thorpe [Judgment July 23]

An employer had no liability in tort for his employee's acts, done in the course of his employment, to assist in the fraudulent scheme of a third person, unless the acts were within the employee's actual or ostensible authority. The mere fact that the employee provided the employee with the opportunity to facilitate the fraud was not sufficient to render an employer vicariously liable.

The Court of Appeal held unanimously dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff bank, Generale Bank Nederland NV, from Mr Justice Longmore's decision on September 24, 1995 of the plaintiff's claim against the defendant, Export Credits Guarantee Department, whose employee had assisted in a fraudulent scheme by underwriting ECGD guarantees so that the bank would make available facilities under which they bought forged and valueless bills of exchange.

Mr Andrew Smith, QC, and Mr Richard Slade for the bank; Mr Jonathan Hirst, QC, Mr Graham Downing and Mr John Snider for the ECGD.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the bank's claims arose from five guarantees issued by ECGD between 1988 and 1992. Its case was that the guarantees were issued as part of a scheme to defraud the bank, the parties to the scheme being a Mr Roland Chong and a Mr Srimamparapillai "Philip" Pillai, a senior underwriter in the Bank Guarantee Division of ECGD, who dealt with the underwriting of the guarantees.

The scheme was that in reliance upon the guarantees the bank should buy forged bills of exchange from companies owned or used by Mr Chong. Bills bought by the bank with a face value of some £12 million were dishonoured on presentation. Mr Pillai retired from ECGD in May 1988 and died in November 1988. Mr Chong disappeared towards the end of 1988.

The bank unsuccessfully brought claims both in contract, claiming that ECGD's guarantees secured payment of bills, and in tort, claiming that ECGD were vicariously liable for Mr Pillai's

acts in authorising the underwriting of guarantees, which was his essential role in the scheme. The bank's claim in tort was at the forefront of the appeal.

ECGD was a department of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who was empowered, for the purposes of encouraging trade with other countries, to make arrangements through ECGD to give guarantees to persons carrying on business in the UK.

ECGD supported UK exporters by indemnifying them in the event of default on the part of their overseas buyers. ECGD also promoted exports by issuing guarantees to banks in order to encourage them to provide finance to exporters. They were issued following authorisation by an underwriter such as Mr Pillai.

Mr Chong moved to England from Singapore in about 1980 and operated through numerous UK and other companies which dealt with the bank and ECGD on an increasing scale until 1988.

In essence the fraudulent scheme worked as follows: ECGD acted pursuant to the authorisation of Mr Pillai, would underwrite bills of exchange to support the provision of finance by the bank to Mr Chong's companies. Mr Chong would draw upon the bank's facilities by fraudulently selling to the bank bills of exchange with forged signatures, which had not been issued by the bank, and which were not genuine export contracts.

It was not the bank's case that Mr Pillai had forged any of the relevant bills of exchange or other false documents. The bank's readiness to purchase bills that had already been supposedly accepted was essential to the fraud.

The bank advanced five propositions in support of ECGD's liability:

1. Mr Chong deceived the bank into buying bills with forged signatures by making representations that the signatures were genuine and related to genuine export transactions.

2. Mr Pillai assisted in the deceit by underwriting guarantees, so that the bank would make available facilities under which they would buy the bills.

3. Mr Pillai so acted in furtherance of a common design with Mr Chong and knowing, or sufficiently knowing, or turning a blind eye in (described as "deliberate blindness") the deceit.

He thereby became a joint tortfeasor with Mr Chong.

4. The deceit caused the bank loss because it bought valueless forgeries.

5. In underwriting the guarantees

Mr Pillai was acting in the course of his employment.

The first and fifth propositions were not in dispute. His Lordship found the second and third to be made out and accepted the fourth.

It followed that if Mr Pillai was a joint tortfeasor in the tort of deceit, he would be liable to the bank to make good its losses on the valueless forgeries. But his Lordship did not agree that those propositions were sufficient to make ECGD vicariously liable to the bank for Mr Pillai's tort.

The question could be posed thus: Where A became liable to B as joint tortfeasor with C in the tort of deceit procured by C on the basis that A and C had a common design to defraud B, and A rendered assistance to C pursuant to and in furtherance of the common design, did D, A's employer, become vicariously liable to B simply because the act of assistance, which was not itself the deceit, was in the course of A's employment with D?

Mr Smith was unable to cite any authority for the proposition that D was liable. And in principle it seemed to his Lordship that D was not.

A was vicariously liable for C's deceit, because in effect he was a conspirator and was therefore liable for the actions of the other conspirators. He was therefore in the position as if he had himself deceived B. D was only liable to B if the tort, which consisted of the deceit, was in the course of A's employment, that is to say within his actual or ostensible authority.

If Mr Pillai had in fact personally deceived the bank by putting forward the forged documents as genuine, then he would have been within his actual or ostensible authority.

The tort giving rise to the civil liability to the bank was the deceit. That was not practised in the course of Mr Pillai's employment. The case nearest to the present was *Armstrong Ltd v Menzies SA* [1988] AC 717 where the House of Lords made it clear that the rules relating to vicarious liability for the dishonest acts of a servant differed from those relating to acts of negligence and trespass.

It did not avail the bank that Mr Pillai was authorised to issue the guarantees which set the scene for Mr Chong's deceit. ECGD was not vicariously liable for Mr Pillai's tort.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE and LORD JUSTICE THORPE delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Clyde & Co.

Settling application for wasted costs order

Manzanilla Ltd v Corton Property and Investments Ltd and Others

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Morritt [Judgment July 7]

Where a wasted costs application against counsel and solicitors was settled, a succinct written statement could be placed before the court to deal with matters relevant to the reputations of the lawyers which, as a result of the settlement, would otherwise not be brought in the court's attention.

The Court of Appeal so held following a settlement of an application by the fourth defendant, Halliwell Landau, for a wasted costs order to be made against junior counsel and the solicitors who had acted for the plaintiff, Manzanilla Ltd, in proceedings for breach of contract. An application for a wasted costs order against leading counsel was withdrawn.

Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr Mark Lomas for junior counsel;

Mr Guy Mansfield, QC, for the solicitors; Mr John Hume, solicitor, for leading counsel.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the parties had resolved the question of the action which should be taken in relation to wasted costs between themselves and, quite properly, the court had been informed in advance of the agreement which had been reached.

Naturally, where a court had required the lawyers involved in a case to show cause why a wasted costs order should not be made against them, the lawyers were concerned as to the effect of that order upon their professional reputations.

It sometimes happened that they had a full explanation of their conduct which would vindicate their position entirely, but they were inhibited from putting that before the court when questions of costs were concerned because of their duties to their clients and questions of privilege which could arise as a result of those duties.

It was therefore desirable for there to be some mechanism as a result of which those members of the judiciary who had dealt with the case previously and had been involved in the question of the possible making of a wasted costs order could be informed of matters which were relevant to the reputation of the lawyers which, as a result of the settlement which had been achieved, would otherwise not be brought to their attention.

With that object in mind, the parties had submitted statements which they wished to have read in open court. In the case of two of those involved in the wasted costs issue, those statements related to a compromise which had been reached. In the case of leading counsel the allegations had been withdrawn.

The parties, having considered the position further, had accepted that the need to make a statement in open court probably, in the majority of cases, would not arise. They had suggested that it would suffice, where a settlement

was reached, if it was acknowledged that it was appropriate that a statement explaining what had happened so far as the lawyers were concerned was submitted to the court in writing, so that it could be brought to the members of the judiciary who had dealt with the wasted costs issues at an earlier stage.

The advantage of that approach was that it would avoid the parties incurring the expense of having to appear before the court. It would also save the court's time.

The circumstances in which a wasted costs order might be appropriate could vary considerably. It was therefore difficult to anticipate what would be the appropriate practice in all cases involving issues as to wasted costs which were compromised. However, there was considerable force in the comments made.

The existence of the practice should encourage settlement which was to be much desired. It also met the real need which lawyers might have in those

circumstances because of the disciplinary flavour of the wasted costs jurisdiction.

In his Lordship's judgment, the court should be prepared to accept a written statement to be placed before the court, so that it could be brought to the members of the judiciary who had dealt with the wasted costs issues at an earlier stage.

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Debtor's plea must be in proper form

Aryo v Sovereign Leasing plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Phillips [Judgment July 3]

A debtor's application to the court to set aside a statutory demand in respect of the debt on which the creditor's bankruptcy petition was based had to be made in the prescribed form, supported by an affidavit and accompanied by payment of the prescribed fee.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the debtor, Mr Gideon Aryo, from the order of Mr Evans Lombe, QC,

sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division on December 18, 1991, affirming the bankruptcy order made in Rhy County Court on September 9, 1991, on a petition presented by the creditor, Sovereign Leasing plc.

Section 267 of the Insolvency Act 1986 provides:

"(2) ... a creditor's petition may be presented to the court in respect of a debt or debts only if, at the time the petition is presented ... (d) there is no outstanding application served ... in respect of the debt or any of the debts".

Mr Frank Panford for the

debtor; Mr Terence Bergin for the creditor.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that Mr Aryo relied on a letter written by him to Rhy County Court in which he requested the creditor's statutory demand be set aside. Mr Panford said that letter ought to be treated as an application to set aside the statutory demand and on that footing the presentation of bankruptcy petition offended section 267(2)(d).

His Lordship said that it was impossible to treat that letter, an application to the court to set aside a demand had to be made in the form prescribed by the Insol-

ventary Rules (SI 1986 No 1925), be supported by an affidavit and accompanied by the appropriate fee.

The court had no power to treat an informal application as a formal application made within the time limit.

Section 267(2) had not been offended as there was at the relevant date no outstanding application by the debtor to the court to set aside the statutory demand.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH and LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS agreed.

Solicitors: Ceres & Co, Balham; Lopian Wagner, Manchester.

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LEGAL NOTICES

REVERTER OF RITES ACT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: British Airways (Q1), Oxford Molecular, Pearson, HSBC Holdings, Finsale, Filtronic, Comtek, McKay Securities, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust. Economic statistics: UK July provisional M0, UK and July of fiscal reserves, UK June housing starts and completions, UK June construction, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interim: Ashanti Goldfields, BAA (Q1), British Petroleum (Q2), Carat, Pharmaceuticals, Hemingway Properties, Inspec Group, Mayflower Corporation, NatWest Group, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Willis Corroon Group (Q2). Finsale: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK July CIPS services sector index, UK Q2 four months to July regional trends survey, US Treasury auction of \$10bn of three-year notes, US Treasury announcement of short-term T-bills, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Commercial Union (Q2), GKN, Leslie Wise Group, Metal Bulletin, Prudential Corp, Standard Chartered, Transport Development Group, Woolwich. Finsale: none scheduled. Economic statistics: BoE monetary policy committee meeting, UK SMMT new car registrations, US Treasury auction of \$12bn of five-year notes.

THURSDAY

Interim: Barclays, KBC Advanced Technologies, Liberty International, Manx Dock & Harbour, Rank Group, RASJ Group, Reed Elsevier, Robert Walters, Royal Dutch (Q2), Shell Transport (Q2), Zeneca. Finsale: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK June new construction orders, UK CBI July distributive trades survey, BoE monetary policy committee announces rate decision, US Treasury auction of \$10bn of 30-year bonds, US June consumer credit, US June reserves assets.

FRIDAY

Interim: none scheduled. Finsale: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK data scheduled for release.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.52	2.14
Austria Sch	22.38	20.70
Belgium Fr	66.83	60.87
Canada \$	2.385	2.185
Cyprus Cyp£	0.932	0.861
Denmark Kr	12.15	11.26
Finland Mk	8.90	8.85
France Fr	10.69	9.91
Germany DM	3.20	2.96
Greece Dr	499	480
Hong Kong \$	10.48	12.25
Ireland Pt	127	107
Israel Shk	6.10	5.45
Italy Lira	319	291
Japan Yen	206.43	190.90
Malta	0.887	0.828
Netherlands Gld	3.028	3.215
New Zealand \$	2.70	2.48
Norway Kr	13.15	12.21
Portugal Esc	206.48	207.50
S Africa Rd	8.20	7.34
Spain Pta	287.29	248.50
Sweden Kr	13.87	12.67
Switzerland	2.64	2.42
Turkey Lira	272.08	252.91
USA \$	1.742	1.589

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Profits shaken at embattled NatWest



Lord Alexander of Weeton, left, and Derek Wanless are in the frontline at NatWest Group

NATWEST GROUP: All eyes will be on the beleaguered clearing bank tomorrow for all the wrong reasons. While rivals shine, NatWest's interim results are expected to be poor after a profit warning on June 16, with the market focusing on the problems of NatWest Markets (NWM) and its £77 million "black hole" in the interest-rate options business. Lord Alexander of Weeton, chairman, and Derek Wanless, chief executive, have already taken some heat out of the announcement by appointing a new chief executive for NWM in Konrad "Chip" Kruger and announcing a reshaping and downsizing of the operation. Credit Lyonnais Laing, forecasts that NWM will contribute pre-tax profits of £135 million, excluding the charge, compared with £261 million in the same period last year. For the whole group, CLL forecasts half-time profits of £721 million (£802 million) and an interim dividend of 11p, up 15 per cent.

HSBC HOLDINGS: Solid rather than spectacular is the consensus on the banking giant's interim profits, due out today. The recent flurry of acquisition speculation has drawn attention to HSBC's capital strength and its potential to be an acquirer, but the banking team at Salomon Brothers sounds a note of caution. The Bamerindus acquisition and general expansion into Latin America represent a big commitment of resources and management time, while the recent high prices for completed UK acquisitions will not suit HSBC's cautious ways. Midland Bank is expected to report strong mortgage growth. Salomon predicts half-time profits of £2.4 billion (£2.32 billion), earnings per share of 61.4p and an interim dividend of 17.5p.

STANDARD CHARTERED: A steady-as-she-goes signal is expected from interim results on Wednesday, with currency factors playing a significant role in depressing revenues and bottom-line profits. Pre-tax profits are expected to be about £430 million (£448 million), with a payout of 5p. Hong Kong should kick in with an 11 per cent rise in trading profits, although other Asian markets have been mixed. Salomon Brothers has rated the shares a "hold", but does not expect a share repurchase on the basis that the management is philosophically opposed to it.

WOOLWICH: Making its debut on Wednesday in the banks' interim reporting season, the former building society is expected to announce pre-tax profits of about £186 million and to pay an interim dividend, likely to be a third of that for the year, of 3.05p. In its former guise, the Woolwich was seen as one of the most cost-efficient societies. As a bank, its shares look fully valued, and prospects for underlying growth appear limited. "Expecting a bid, better value is available elsewhere in the sector," says Credit Lyonnais Laing.

BARCLAYS BANK: While all attention in investment banking has been on NatWest Markets, BZW, its Barclays counterpart, has been largely left to get on with its business, bar the occasional bout of speculation that it might be up for sale. Interim operating profits, due on Thursday, are expected to fall to £1.3 billion and pre-tax profits to be down by 7 per

cent, to £1.2 billion, compared with last year, when the figures were boosted by "one-offs" such as releases of bad debt provisions.

ZENECA: Strong sales of its anti-asthma treatment, Accolate, and the anti-cancer portfolio should provide the backdrop to a reasonable set of first-half figures from Zeneca on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are forecast to grow by 5 per cent, from £611 million to £640 million, with earnings per share up from 43p to 44.3p. Turnover will be down a touch, reflecting disposals and currency

factors. The payout should rise by 15 per cent, from 12.4p to 14.3p.

SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING: Second-quarter results on Thursday, are expected to make further progress in spite of lower oil prices and a stronger dollar. Net income is forecast to grow from £1.18 billion to £1.26 billion. The improvement is likely to accrue from the benefit of falling oil prices in its downstream and chemicals operations. The figures should also contain a surplus from the sale of coal interests in South Africa. The payout

will rise from 4.8p to 5p, but the Dutch guilders' weakness and the group's big cash balances may put pressure on it to be more generous to Royal Dutch shareholders.

BRITISH PETROLEUM: A better performance from downstream and chemical operations should provide the basis for a strong second quarter when BP reports tomorrow. A rise in net income from £587 million to £690 million is on the cards. A lower interest charge, reduced costs in upstream activities and increased volumes will also have helped the

overall picture, and should help to counter a decline in the oil price. The payout will rise from 5p to 5.25p.

PRUDENTIAL: A solid performance is expected in half-year figures on Wednesday. New business has been buoyant and life profits worldwide are expected to be up by about 14 per cent. The mild winter should also ensure a healthy contribution from general insurance. A 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £421 million to £468 million, is forecast. The interim dividend should rise 11 per cent, from 5.8p to 6.4p.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE: Flat underwriting profits and adverse currency factors will result in a small drop in operating profits in half-year figures due on Thursday. Brokers expect £445 million, against £450 million last time. Even so, the group is capable of generous dividend growth in the next few years, with brokers predicting an increase of 10 per cent, to 7.15p, this time.

COMMERCIAL UNION: A small improvement in half-year operating profits is expected in results due on Wednesday. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for £220 million, against £216 million last time. Improved life profits and low underwriting losses should counter a reduction in investment income. The payout is likely to be up 7 per cent, at 12.25p.

BRITISH AIRWAYS: The strong pound is expected to have made a dent in first-quarter performance when the group reports today. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall £12 million, to £135 million, with earnings per share stuck at 10.5p. Traffic growth rose almost 9 per cent, with revenues up 3 per cent, to £1.98 billion, from the first quarter last year. Analysts will probably have to downgrade full-year forecasts to reflect the strike by cabin staff.

BAA GROUP: First-quarter figures tomorrow should show a modest improvement, with brokers penciling in pre-tax profits of £133 million, up from £130 million for the corresponding period. Traffic grew by 7.8 per cent to 26.6 million people in the period, but the increase in traffic charges is likely to wipe £8 million from the final figure. Earnings per share should show the same rate of progress, rising from 9.5p to 9.7p.

GKN: Half-year profits on Wednesday will almost certainly bear the scars of a strong pound. At the pre-tax level, they will show a modest increase from £183.6 million to £185.9 million, with earnings per share up from 32.1p to 32.8p. About 57 per cent of sales are in foreign currencies and the effect of a strong pound will be significant when translating back. New aerospace orders should boost overall sales by 10 per cent.

REED ELSEVIER: Half-year figures on Thursday will show the harm that can be done by currency fluctuations. This, and costs of the switch to electronic distribution, will limit progress. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up 4 per cent, at £435 million, with earnings per share up just 2 per cent, at 14.8p. The dividend is expected to rise 10 per cent, to 9.1p.

MICHAEL CLARK

Express hotels, Tom Cobleigh and all

By DOMINIC WALSH

TOM COBLEIGH, the pub chain bought by Rank Group in October, is in talks with a fledgling hotel company with a view to developing budget Holiday Inn Express hotels next to some of its pubs.

Its prospective partner is Premier Hotels, which is currently assembling a £100 million war chest to fund development of Holiday Inn Express units throughout the UK and on the Continent. Premier has a franchise agreement with Bass, owner of the Holiday Inn brand worldwide.

When Rank bought the 44-strong Tom Cobleigh chain for a hefty £95.6 million, there were raised eyebrows in the City, so any deal that improves the return on its investment should be well received. Although Rank will be providing the land, it is not thought to be putting any money into building the hotels.

Neither party would comment on the deal, but it is understood that it does not bar either from other partnerships, indeed, Premier's first Holiday Inn Express — to open in Cardiff next week — adjoins an Allied Domecq Big Steak Pub. Holiday Inn has been trying to get the Express concept off the ground for some years, but has had trouble finding franchisees willing to enter a market dominated by Granada's Forte Travelodge and Whitbread's Travel Inn. Only three have opened so far, although Bass is planning to build some of its own.

Premier says it is close to signing funding deals worth almost £40 million.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.6367 (-0.0283)
German mark
3.0385 (-0.0204)
Exchange index
105.3 (-0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3092.2 (+23.6)
FTSE 100
4899.3 (+47.8)
New York Dow Jones
8194.04 (+80.60)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
19804.38 (-585.16)

Rates outlook sets the tone

REMARKS by Howard Davies, days after he retired as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, that interest rates will go up again, may set the tone for the week.

Economists will be watching the Bank of England monetary policy committee meeting on Wednesday and Thursday to see how accurate are Mr Davies's, presumably informed, predictions.

What seems certain is that the members of the committee will resume their argument over how much of a monetary squeeze the strong pound is putting on the economy already, and how neces-

sary this makes a further rise in interest rates. The result of their deliberations will be known on Thursday. The City is expecting a 0.25 per cent

increase, making a 1 per cent point rise in rates over four months. No one would be surprised, however, by a decision to hold off any rise for a month.

The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Blakes Clothing, Pwong, The Observer, Buy Lloyds TSB and Abbey National. *The Independent on Sunday:* Buy Geest. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy Metroline, H Young, Television Corporation, Hold Meggit, The Sunday Times, Buy Commercial Union and Babcock.

In the meantime economists will have M0 money supply figures to look at today. They are expected to show a slight fall to an annual rate of 6.2 per cent for July against 6.3 per cent in June.

Industrial production figures for June, due tomorrow, are expected to show a rise of 1.2 per cent year on year. The latest Halifax house price survey will also be scrutinised for signs of overheating. The CBI distributive trades survey is due out on Thursday and, again, will be analysed for signs of consumer strength.

GEORGE SIVELL

NEC's new £65m wing to create 2,000 jobs

By FRASER NELSON

THE National Exhibition Centre, the Birmingham convention venue, is spending £65 million on a new wing. It hopes that the expansion will inject £100 million a year to the West Midlands economy and create 2,000 jobs.

NEC Group, which runs the publicly owned centre, plans to use the new wing to bid for the 2003 International Textile Machinery Exhibition. It has joined forces with Enrap, the publishing and conference group, to raise the funds needed to complete the extension and become the world's seventh largest exhibition hall. Enrap, the NEC's largest single customer, is to buy an

equity stake in the project, matching the value of the land already donated by local authorities. The outstanding money has been raised by issuing 30-year bonds through UBS Securities, the investment bank.

Barry Cleverdon, NEC's chief executive, said that bids for exhibition, which has never come to the UK before, will firmly mark Birmingham on the global map of exhibition centres.

He said: "This will be by far the most ambitious bid we have put together. The new wing will provide immense benefit for the local economy, for Britain's position as a

global exhibition venue and for those who already use the centre and need to expand."

He added that the enlarged facilities should encourage British companies to spend more than the current 6 per cent of their marketing budget on staging exhibitions. German companies spend more than a quarter of their marketing budgets on trade shows, he noted. The NEC made an operating profit of £31.6 million in the year to March 31, on sales of £103 million. After paying interest on its heavy borrowings, this turned into a net loss of £2.92 million. The new wing expects to be in the black within four years.

Bank table headed by NatWest

THE troubled NatWest Group, whose interim results are published tomorrow, has a more than 25 per cent share of the UK banking market (Marianne Curphey writes).

Barclays is just behind with almost 24 per cent, while Lloyds TSB trails at just under 16 per cent. The figures, published by Don & Bradstreet, the business information company, come after the bank revealed last week that its investment banking business, NatWest Markets, would be split into two and Konrad "Chip" Kruger would be its new chief executive.

Mr Kruger takes the position vacated when Martin Owen resigned from NWM in June.

Heron pays £121m for Hypo Bank portfolio

By OLIVER AUGUST

HERON International, the property firm led by Gerald Ronson, has bought a £121 million portfolio from Hypo Bank. It comprises 520,000 sq ft of UK office space with tenants ranging from Allied Dunbar to the Post Office.

Mr Ronson said: "It is a sign of our confidence in the UK property market in respect of quality properties in select locations, and we intend to retain this portfolio as a first-class investment. We continue to re-

view major opportunities where we can add value."

The deal is financed with a ten-year Hypo Bank loan. Heron International has made property deals worth £750 million in the past eight months. In May, it announced a 190,000 sq ft, £100 million, City of London development programme. El Harbour Exchange in Docklands, owned by Citibank, has been bought by a Dutch group for £11 million.

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

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TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 36

JACKANAPES

(a) A silly, impertinent monkey of a fellow. Some derive from Jack Napes and William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk in the 15th century, whose badge was a dog and chain of the kind used for a tame ape. It is uncertain whether the -napes is connected originally with the ape or with Naples. Jackanapes being a jack (monkey) of (imported from) Naples, just as justian-a-napes was justian from Naples. By the 16th century Jackanapes was in use as a proper name for a tame ape.

ONTOMANIA

(a) An irresistible urge to buy things. From the Greek for "buying mania". The condition is generally found in association with penny. Where it is not, it soon will be, especially as ontomania. Like therianthiasia (those who cannot tell hot from cold) tend to marry each other.

GALIMATIAS

(b) Nonsense, gibberish, confused and meaningless speech. The word first appeared in France in the 16th century, but its origin is unknown. Perhaps it is connected with gallimaufry.

MONSTRANCE

(c) The ornamental receptacle which is used to display the consecrated host to the congregation. Related to monstrance, from the Latin monstrare to show. This word allows opportunities for jokes in bad taste about monsters and the ludicrous hosts of television chat shows.

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كذبا من الأصل

Hampel ready to confirm that shareholder is king

Philip Bassett
expects a
softening of
the stance
of Cadbury
and Greenbury

It has taken more than 18 months to produce, called on the cream of British industry — including one business leader now a government minister, and will set the agenda on how British companies are run going into the millennium. Tomorrow sees the publication of the interim report from the committee led by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, reviewing the previous reports by Sir Adrian Cadbury into corporate structures and by Sir Richard Greenbury into boardroom pay.

Sir Ronald hoped the inquiry that bears his name would be clear both of the political imperatives that drove the Cadbury and Greenbury reports, and of the public rows that surrounded them. But the political scrap over the retained shareholdings of Lord Simon of Highbury, the European and competitiveness minister and former BP chairman, (and coincidentally an old friend of Sir Ronald's as well as a member of the inquiry team), will provide a more politicised context than its members would have liked.

But its report will be more able than its predecessors to focus on what is likely to be a key — and new — message: that corporate governance is not just about accountability but about business prosperity, too.

There has been an extensive consultation involving more than 140 detailed written submissions and more than 200 face-to-face discussions with those called to give evidence, and so many business lunches and dinners that some inquiry members feel they have eaten little but corporate governance for the past 18 months.

The inquiry's central thrust is likely to be that over the past few years the debate on how companies should work has been centred on accountability rather than on prosperity, and it will be the job of the Hampel inquiry to correct that balance.

That is not to say that the inquiry, carried out by such business luminaries as Sir Clive Thompson of Rentokil, Christopher Haskins of Northern Foods, Peter Smith of Coopers & Lybrand, and Sir Nigel Mobbs of Slough Estates, as well as Sir Ronald and Lord Simon, will shy away from accountability. With an emphasis on disclosure and on the importance of teamwork at the top, accountability has been a central theme.

When the 12-strong team was established with the support of the Stock Exchange in November 1995, Sir Ronald — mindful of the political argument in which Greenbury, in particular, had been embroiled — envisaged a timetable that would see his inquiry's work come this side of the general election to give it clear political ground.

Tomorrow's study, which will be coupled with a call for comments in preparation for a final report by the end of the year, will anger many by agreeing with the view put to it by business that there is no real need for fundamental change. Sir Ronald will argue that the vast majority of companies are well — or adequately — run and are not straying into the areas of fraud or misjudgment that have prompted previous inquiries into Britain's boardrooms.

But because it looks unlikely to recommend radical change, inquiry members recognise that it runs the risk of being



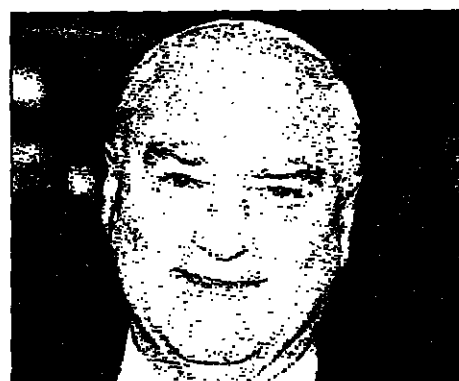
Sir Ronald Hampel of ICI. His report is expected to fall short of radical expectations

seen either as a damp squib or as pulling its punches. Worse, many key corporate governance campaigners, and institutional shareholders may well be dissatisfied with what Sir Ronald looks set to propose. On short-termism inquiry members believe that the balance is moving, with shareholders and fund managers now ready to take a longer view. While the pressures of the Eighties and early Nineties for short-term performance improvement are still there, they are now more balanced, with a need to think long term as well. The report will turn against the idea that

companies should broaden their accountability to reflect the importance of groups like customers, suppliers and employees, as well as shareholders. Though Sir Ronald is maintaining a discreet silence

must develop relationships relevant to its success, including those with suppliers, customers, employees and other stakeholder groups, with company boards having a clear responsibility to do so. But while that responsibility is likely to be judged as important, it seems set to be seen as second-order: that primary accountability must be towards shareholders.

Primary accountability must be to shareholders... in other words companies should be run for shareholders and no one else



Sir Richard Greenbury: corporate pay



Sir Adrian Cadbury: corporate structures

their shareholders and no one else. That means no dilution of directors' traditional responsibilities, no two-tier boards, no inclusion on boards of representatives of other stakeholder interests at the expense of shareholders.

Yet the inquiry looks set to combine such traditionalism with a more flexible view of corporate governance. It seems likely to endorse the recommendations of the Cadbury and Greenbury reports, which it was charged to review, although inquiry members are still undecided about the impact of at least some of the earlier studies.

On Greenbury, for instance, business leaders believe that the recommendations on disclosure made by the inquiry led by the chairman of Marks & Spencer have broadly worked. But they feel that it has produced a huge amount of often indigestible information on executive salaries and benefits, which have been of principal value to directors wanting to ratchet up their pay, to companies looking to poach people from boardrooms, and to headhunters, whose job has been made immeasurably easier by the public provision of detailed data from which to work.

What is likely to characterise tomorrow's report is an emphasis on a greater flexibility of approach than either Cadbury or Greenbury advocated — a belief that it is unrealistic to expect the establishment of a single formula for good corporate governance and business success that companies of any size should be required to use.

The Hampel committee looks set to soften the impact of Cadbury's central recommendation, that the roles of company chairmen and chief executives should be split. Many business leaders believe there are good corporate examples where it is both satisfactory and correct to have a combined job. So the direction of tomorrow's inquiry is likely to be towards greater flexibility by boards — leaving it up to companies to decide the best corporate governance provision for their circumstances.

The inquiry is expected to accept the feeling among business leaders that some elements of the way companies are run are less suited to an overall framework approach. Disclosure is a better way forward says business, and Sir Ronald will agree.

For instance, in their annual reports, companies would have to explain what they do and why, and the checks and balances they have in place. One idea might be to have a non-executive director specifically charged with promoting and policing corporate governance issues on the company board, and the company overall.

Small companies are unlikely to be excluded. Far from suggesting that corporate governance provisions would be inappropriate for small firms, inquiry members believe that, if anything, good corporate governance is more important for small companies since they have less experience and knowledge of it than big businesses.

The report is meant to be preliminary: the inquiry will be looking for ideas in response. Some areas of its work are likely to reflect that, possibly including the role of annual shareholder meetings, the use of proxy votes and the extent of the shareholder vote at annual meetings.

The inquiry's likely emphasis on prosperity and flexibility may be judged insufficient by those advocating radical changes in the way UK companies are run. But the inquiry will want to ensure that the link between prosperity and good governance is made apparent, with the ultimate aim of improving the performance of companies in Britain.

TELEVISION CHOICE

On the track of the cat

In the Wild: Cheetahs with Holly Hunter
ITV, 8.00pm

The celebrity wildlife series returns by dispatching the star of *Crash* and *The Piano* to Namibia and South Africa in search of a favourite cat. There is always something a shade unconvincing about Hollywood stars purporting to rough it, though Hunter plays the part with as much conviction as she can muster. She pluckily sleeps under the stars and even, in the middle of the desert, does her own washing and sootily hangs it out to dry. But you feel the five-star hotel is not too far away. Hunter's message about the cheetah is that unless we are careful there will soon be few of them left. Her own contribution to the survival of the species is to release back into the wild a cheetah that has been held in a farm-pen. Strangely, perhaps, the cheetah seems reluctant to regain its freedom.

Citizen's Arrest: Anorexia
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Nikki Hughes starved to death after years of fighting anorexia. She was 23 and weighed less than five stone. The hospital doctors said they were powerless to force her to eat. But her sister, Vanessa, and aunt, Hazel Higgins, refuse to accept this. They argue that anorexia is a mental illness and that mental patients can be fed against their will. They concede that it might have been too late to save Nikki's life but insist that the effort should have been made. It is an emotionally-charged case for the first of a new series of *Citizen's Arrest* and it needs all the placatory skill of the presenter, Joe Layburn, to calm two increasingly angry women. Vanessa and her aunt feel that the hospital is passing the buck to the mental health authority, which is passing it to the social services. But, as the film makes plain, this is a tricky and complex question with no clear villains.

All Mod Cons: Just Switch On
BBC2, 9.30pm

Another slice of diverting social history charts the revolution that made the housewife's lot a happier one in the Britain of the 1950s. The electrical appliances which had long been commonplace in homes across the Atlantic finally became widely available here, as postwar austerity disappeared.



Layburn, Vanessa and Hazel (C4, 8pm)

purchase tax was reduced and hire purchase became freely available. If the series has a fault, it is concentrating on the middle-classes and giving the impression that by 1960 there was hardly a home without its fridge, vacuum cleaner and a television. But the perception of a new mass consumerism was not entirely false. A Conservative Party film of 1958, showing Britons luxuriating in the ownership of mod cons, was a powerful image which helped to secure election victory in the following year.

The Granston Star Cause
Channel 4, 11.00pm

A new late-night strand called *Renegade TV* comprises dramas and documentaries that merit such labels as challenging, provocative and controversial. The venture gets off to a suitably combative start with a short story by Irvine Welsh of *Trainspotting* fame, which he has adapted for the screen. *The Granston Star Cause* is the story of Boab (Stephen McCaffrey), a young man who is dumped in turn by his football team, his parents, his girlfriend and his employer. Just when his life is at its lowest ebb he meets a man in a bar who professes to be God. He tells Boab to snap out of it and turns him into a fly. In this guise Boab is able to avenge his tormentors. Raw in language and sexually frank, the piece is vigorously directed by Paul McGuigan with soundtrack help from Johnny Cash and Frank Sinatra. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Round Britain Quiz
Radio 4, 12.25pm

Radio's most challenging panel game returns with a new chairman, an amended regional framework, and the absence of the astonishingly knowledgeable Irene Thomas. What haven't changed are the fiendishly fashioned brain-teasers that would surely have tested even the brilliant deductive powers of Sherlock Holmes, viz: "How did a letter complaining about a lack of women help to shorten the Second World War?" The new question-master is Nick Clarke, source of many an unprepared politician on *The World at One*. *Round Britain Quiz* finds him in rather mellow mood, although there is a hint of the old asperity in his opening statement: "I intend to be rather firm about the scoring!"

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Land 8.00 Mark Goodier 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, Live in Humberston 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 John Peel 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 The Music Upstairs with Benji 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.10 Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jenny Jones 1.30pm Angela Report 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes over Britain 10.30 Richard Aitken 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Ruzoco on Five 4.00 John Peel 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Gloria 9.00 Night 9.30 Playing Through 9.30 The Monday Match: Rangers v Hearts in the Scottish Premiership 9.30 Work Out 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm Up All Night with Road Show

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy War 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tony Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinklage 7.00 Anna Rasmussen 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickinson

The Monday Play: Pino Pelosi and the Boys
Radio 4, 7.45

Jeff Young's dark and gritty play is set in a northern city, probably Manchester, because it was recorded on that city's streets. I can recall few plays that have gained so much by quipping the squalor. Pelosi was the male prostitute who murdered the Italian film director Pier Paolo Pasolini in 1975. Killer and victim acted out their sordid drama many miles from Manchester. It is Young's remarkable achievement to have transplanted key elements of that Roman tragedy to the urban soil of Lancashire. The gang is led by Pete (John Lloyd Fillingham) whose obsession with all things Italian (Sinatra, Pelosi and Pasolini among them) is clearly going to end badly. Which it does, very badly indeed. Peter Daville

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Code Breakers 7.30 Omibus 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Vintage Chart 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Question of Science 10.05 Business 10.10 Computers at Work 10.20 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.20 Omnibus 12.20pm Jazz-tast 1.05 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 2.05 Outlook 3.30 What's News 3.45 The Lab 4.05 Sport 4.15 Envylopedia Historica 4.30 Jules Holland Collector 5.00 Europe Today 5.20 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Brain of Britain 8.01 Outlook 8.24 News 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack 9.00 Newsday 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 Story of Football 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05pm Outlook 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 Sport, Air, Fire and Water 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 Champions 3.30 On Screen 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Sally Patterson 6.00 Alan Mann 9.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listeners' Requests 2.00 Copacabana 3.00 Jamie Cullum 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Sonnet Mozart (Piano Sonata No 18 in D major, K576) 8.00 Concert: Sinfonia Concerta (Fantasy on Camille) Mozart (Symphony No 1), Beethoven (Variations on Le Ci D'amore) Mendelssohn (Spring Quartet No 1 in E flat major, Op 12) Schumann (Piano Trio) 10.00 Michael Maplin 2.00am Concerto (C)

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ'n' John 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Doyle (FM) / Robin Barlow (AM) 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Andrew McGregor. Includes Handel (Concerto Grosso in G, Op 6 No 1); Elgar (Violin Sonata in E minor, Op 82); Johann Strauss, son (Empress Waltz); Bernstein (Prelude, Fugue and Riffs); Purcell (Preludes in the Lord Away, 24); Grieg (Piano Suite) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Nielsen (Overture: An Imaginary Journey to the Faroe Islands); Byrd (Ave Verum Corpus); Falla (Live in the Gardens of Spain); Mozart (Ave Verum Corpus, K518); Walton (Sinfonia Henry V) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mark Rowlinson. Includes Haydn (Nun tust du nur die Feur, Die Red Act Arise); Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke, 3rd mv); Schindler (Polnische Sackpfeifen); Chopin (Barcarolle in F sharp, Op 80); Mozart (Fantasia in F minor); Prokofiev (Suite: Romeo and Juliet) 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Brahms. 1.00pm News; Proms Chamber Music 97. Live from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Polyphony, under Stephen Layton, performs Aron (Magnificat, Tonus Peregrinus); Part (Seven Magnificat Anthems); Granger (Song of Solomon); Under Stephen Layton, performs Aron (Magnificat, Tonus Peregrinus); Part (Seven Magnificat Anthems); Granger (Song of Solomon); Under Stephen Layton, performs Aron (Magnificat, Tonus Peregrinus); Part (Seven Magnificat Anthems); Granger (Song of Solomon) 2.00 BBC Proms 97. Stephen Hough, piano, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. Sever (The Greatest Happiness Principle, first London performance); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3); Sibelius (Symphony No 2) (I) 3.45 Bach and Beethoven. Steven Osborne, piano. Bach (Piano No 1 in B flat, BWV1022); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in D, Op 10 No 3) (I) 4.30 Hard Bop, Soft Focus. Alyn Shipton continues his history of the Blue Note record label. In this second programme he looks at artists such as Thelma Houston and Bud Powell who look up to bebop, adapting it to a new commercial style. 5.00 Musical Milestone. In the first of a week's programmes focusing on dance, Tommy Pearson examines popular styles of the last 50 years. 5.15 In Time, with Andrew Green. Includes Brahms (Overture in G minor, Op 118 No 3); Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance No 4 in G); Morricone (Cinema Variations) 7.30 BBC Proms 97. Live from the Albert Hall, the BBC Singers and Symphony Orchestra, under Leonard Slatkin. Mahler (Symphony); Reynolds (The Red Act Arise) 8.15 Albert Hall. The last of four programmes exploring the area around the Albert Hall, with Professor Steve Jones 8.35 Concert, part two. Mahler (Symphony No 1) 9.50 Five Poems for Years. Peter Reading's Three is an elegy for those who have died, particularly the poets George Macdonald and Edwin Evans. 10.10 Mahler for Origin. From Rochester Cathedral. Robert Gower, Professor Percy Whitlock, Alberto Poser, Five Short Pieces; Air, Prelude, Air and Figure, an Essay; Plymouth Suite) 10.45 Recordings (Recording the Century). Peter Nelson discusses the phenomena of classical music in the 1950s with Luciano Berio. Includes music by Pierre Henry, Pierre Schaeffer and John Cage. Plus Berio's Vesage featuring the voice of Cathy Barberian 11.30 Proms Composer of the Week: Hornegger (I) 12.35am Jazz Notes. In the first of a week's programmes surveying jazz, Digby Fairweather focuses on Clifford Brown and Frankie Newton 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. Includes Sports News and Thought for the Day 6.45 Core Ceren. The humourist and Times columnist Alan Ceren reads from his book, A Bit on the Side 6.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 North of Watford. In the second of a five-part discussion series, Sean Rafferty joins a panel of guests for the topical debate in Bangor, North Wales 10.00 News; Big Bang (FM). Jaz Nelson presents the alternative science show 10.00 Daily Service (LW). From St Martin's Church in Belfast 10.15 On This Day (LW). A look back at the events of August 4, 1947 10.30 Woman's Hour (FM). Introduced by Diane Maddie 11.30 Inside Money. Paul Lewis examines the regulatory with which banks get their figures wrong 12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Alice Beer 12.25pm Round Britain Quiz. See Choice 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One. A roundup of the latest news with Gulo Ham 1.40 The Archers (I) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Playthings. The final part of the drama by Zorah Henderson, with Sybil Wentrop, Rose McCain and Eliza Langland 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and his guests 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Waller investigates records and the recording industry 4.45 Short Story: Neil Macdonald's Gamble, by Hugh Macmillan. Read by Mary Rogers (I) 5.00 PM, with Charlie Lae-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.55 Sports Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute, with Nicholas Parsons. On the panel are Fred MacAulley, Clement Freud, Tony Hawks and Derek Nimmo (I) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme. Another look at the culinary world with Derek Cooper (I) 7.45 The Weekend Plan. Pine Pellet and the Eggs, by Jeff Young. See Choice 9.00 A Cultural History of the Benares. Fritton: O'Toole explores the extraordinary story of the fruit, from a symbol of freedom to a summation and a source of hard work and oppression (I) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (I) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Today, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime. Love on a Strand Line. Written by John Haffield and read by Michael Schaffer (I) (I) 11.00 Relatively Speaking. The second of six programmes in which two close family members talk openly about their relationship. This week's subjects are Sir Peter Hall and his son, the television producer Christopher Hall (I) 11.30 Hearts and Lives of Men. The first of a four-part series, set in 1950s London, written and narrated by Fay Weldon. With Jenny Funnell, Charles Simpson, Jens Lewin and Christian Rodska (I) 12.00 News and 12.25pm approx Weather 12.30 Late Book: Khefien, by Barbara Yashinski. Abridged by Penny Leicester and read by Emily Wood. The story of a young woman who is obsessed by ideas (I) (I) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.2-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 156. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 883, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 848. LW 156. CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.5. MW 1197. TALK RADIO. MW 1055, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Day, Ian Roberts, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, John Gregory and John McManus.

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THE WEATHER CHANNEL

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Engaging enough, if you know the rules

This was a very odd game of soldiers indeed. For a start it really was... a game of soldiers. The orders had clearly gone out: Game of War (Channel 4, Sunday) was to be cleared of all celebrities. No alternative comedians, no breakfast television presenters — just a prime Angela Rippon and an awful lot of military personnel. If we ever have a military coup in this country, this is what it will look like.

But coups were not on the agenda. The plan, as far as I could gather, was to re-stage the battle of Balaklava. Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn was to command the British, French and Turkish Allies, while Major-General Tony Jones would bat for the Russians. In place of the Crimean peninsula was a large piece of sculpted polystyrene covered — for added realism, presumably — with a layer of glued-on sand.

This was the first and only time I

have regretted not being a member

of the War Games Society at school. They would have understood what was going on. Rippon said the rules were based on a Defence Ministry system for tactics training, which certainly explained why she made no attempt to describe them and why I spent the next hour wondering what was happening. Now, cavalry were circles, right? Or was it squares? Every now and then a man in a blue cardigan would say something along the lines of "The Turks have thrown a seven". That apparently meant they lost their redoubt, ran away in confusion and were promptly massacred by the Cosacks. All for throwing a seven?

The game got under way almost

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Light Brigade throwing an eight and avoiding the Valley of Death altogether. If only it had been so simple the first time.

By comparison, the rules of Masterchef (BBC1) are pretty straightforward, but this being the grand final, Loyd Grossman thought he'd remind us of them anyway. "To prepare a championship quality, three-course meal with a budget of £35 and just two

and-a-half hours at the sto-o-oves", Grossman, you see, doesn't have a four-letter word in his exclusive three-syllable model. But we know that by now: you either put with Grossman or you don't watch Masterchef. Just as we know by now that we won't learn anything about cooking from such a heavily edited programme, which always puts chat before cuisine. Yesterday that was the right choice, with both Grossman's guests, Anton Edelmann and Lord Gworne, on top form.

Given the extraordinary free

play Grossman gave the Savoy (with its commanding views of the Thames, dining at the Savoy has been one of London's most sparkling and fashionable... oh, you get the drift Edelmann had every reason to be in a good mood. But he also improved mine with a bit of gentle Grossman-baiting. So while Grossman described red pepper pesto as "an American neologism" (I lost count of the number of syllables he managed to turn that into), Edelmann suggested "bastardisation" might be nearer the mark. Similarly, while Grossman affected wonderment at how you could possibly serve oysters on a budget of only £35, Edelmann just shrugged and voiced what many of us were thinking: "It's a fortune."

Gworne, too, proved unexpectedly congenial, diplomatically agreeing that

cooking was an art and should therefore qualify instantly for literary grants and teasingly reminding us of his social station. According to Edelmann, the treatment of one particular sauce was "for Mr and Mrs average, perfectly the right thing to do". There was a brief pause before Gworne added: "And for Lord Average". As Julie Two (aka Julie Friel from London) emerged triumphant, I scanned the three menus for a clue to this year's fashionable ingredients. Pesto, parsnips and roast vegetable salads appear to be the order of the day. Funny, I could swear they were the order of last year, too.

Finally, Confessions (BBC1, Saturday) returned for another season of ritualised shame, humiliation and embarrassment. Sounds awful, but it isn't. After two series and some hiccups, Hat Trick, the show's producers, seem to have got the mix just right. None of Saturday's assorted confessions was tasteless or offensive but all were very funny. The successful formula seems to be impressive research, a delightful knack of turning the tables on the original whistle-blowers and Simon Mayo, who by historical precedent (think Noel Edmonds, Jeremy Beadle, Mike Smith), you should end up hating but I, at least, don't. Not yet, anyway.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (57471)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (52029)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (517520)
- 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (5598810)
- 9.50 Esther: Discussion on dangerous sports (1) (5491297)
- 10.20 The Roadshow Collection With Hilary Kay (548858)
- 10.45 Caron Cooper's Cooking with Confidence: Root vegetables (2423162)
- 11.00 News (1) and weather (2294013)
- 11.05 Due South: Vecchio is found guilty of contempt of court (1) (5480864)
- 11.50 Good Neighbours (1) (5126487)
- 12.00 News (1) and weather (4880013)
- 12.05pm Pileup (1) (1028617)
- 12.35 Neighbours (1) (1423487)
- 1.00 News (1) and weather (36888)
- 1.30 Regional News (58216704)
- 1.40 Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) Columbo looks forward to a pleasure cruise. With Peter Falk, Robert Vaughn, Dean Stockwell and Patrick Macnee (1) (4389588)
- 3.10 Quincy (1) (1253384)
- 3.55 Well Worth a Visit: Historic Dock Museum (7365907)
- 4.00 Popeye (2338339) 4.05 Ben Hur (231162) 4.15 Little Mouse on the Prairie (7303084) 4.35 Run the Risk (500432) 5.00 Newsround (1) (2221433) 5.10 Eldor (1) (3872346)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (12167)
- 6.00 News (1) and weather (723)
- 6.30 Regional News (425)
- 7.00 Nightmares of Nature: In Cold Blood: Exploring jungles to seek out reptiles and amphibians, venomous and harmless (1) (73094)
- 7.30 Mastermind: From the Great Hall, Stamford Palace, the aristocratic subjects and the life and career of David Gower and Sir Thomas Sopwith: the life and reign of Queen Victoria and the Penn stories of Anne McCaffrey (1) (87)
- 8.00 EastEnders: Bianca discovers Rick's latest scam (1) (8742)
- 8.30 Tiger Bay: Kim decides not to join the rest of the community at Betty's funeral and Maria has a hard time. Jade is intrigued by Roy's mysterious brother (1) (4548)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (9025)
- 9.30 French and Saunders (1) (19549)
- 10.00 Preston Front: Lloyd's Housewarming: All appears well when Lloyd moves out of his new house, but in below Eric and Dawn (1) (516365)
- 10.40 Match of the Eighties: Danny Baker looks back on the 1982-83 soccer season (1) (589742)
- 11.20 Classic Albums: The Grateful Dead's musical progress from Anthem of the Sun to the more mellow American Beauty (1) (574394)
- 12.25am Fever Pitch (1985) with Ryan O'Neal: An investigative journalist goes undercover to expose illegal gambling in Las Vegas, but falls under the spell of the world he has entered. Directed by Richard Brooks (1) (5830105)
- 1.55 Weather (4120560)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. The code in the Video PlusCodes field of the VCR remote control will automatically tune in the video programme. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am O.U. Putting Training to Work (5843887) 6.25 Open Advice (5833884) 6.50 Windows on the Mind (5956625)
- 7.15 See Hear: Hear Difference News (1) and signing (5946807)
- 7.30 Teletubbies (1) (4816029) 7.55 Postman Pat (1) (1935617) 8.10 Racoon (1) (1834084) 8.35 To Me, to You (1) (5591102) 8.55 Sportsman (1) (7345528) 9.25 Short (1) (5472182) 10.00 Peter Pan and the Pirates (1) (7448742) 10.25 The Brollys (1) (4730226) 10.45 Teletubbies (1) (182346)
- 11.15 Harry and the Hendersons (1) (1) (4817100) 11.35 Moon Over Miami (1) (7441013) 12.00pm It's a Living: This Year's Model (1) (7550558) 12.45 The World of Wine (1) (75257)
- 1.15 Glynis Christian Task Force: Thailand (10016029) 1.40 Blockbusters (58235758) 2.05 The Natural World Classics: the history of the oceans (1) (8183100) 3.00 News and weather (2738181)
- 3.05 Seeing Red: The drivers of London's famous red buses (1) (4873100) 3.55 News and weather (7365549) 4.00 Going, Going, Gone (1983)
- 4.30 World Championship Athletics Live coverage from Athens featuring the final of the men's 400m hurdles and women's 400m and triple jump in which Ashia Hansen represents Britain. Plus, Denise Lewis in the heptathlon 800m and the semi-finals of the men's 400m (1) (1878452)
- 6.30 The Travel Show includes reports from: Bournemouth-Windermere in the Lake District and Washington DC (5891)
- 9.00 Changing Rooms: Mary and Michael the owners of a stately home in Grafton in Lincolnshire and their lodgers Mick and Sally transform a room in each other's part of the house (1) (7471)
- 9.30 All Mod Cons (3/8) The changing face of electrical appliances since the 1950s (1) (52461)
- 10.00 Sykes: Classic comedy (1) (1) (7472) WALES: How Buildings Learn (1) (583237)
- 10.30 Newsnight presented by Huw Edwards (1) (583237)
- 11.15 Summer Drama: Elliot Caplan follows 78-year-old dance legend Merce Cunningham, devising his latest piece, Crispin (1) (584013)
- 12.00 Animated 2 (3222018) Followed by weather
- 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Swedish Science in the 18th Century (77501) 1.00 San Francisco, Rimini (58037) 1.30 Public Murals in New York (97414) 2.00 Summer Nights: Fit for Summer (4195) 4.00 A Vous la France 3.00 French on a Plate: Burgundy (58214) 5.30 ACN Nursing Update (70895)



Presenter Carol Smilie (9.00pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (7978655)
- 9.25 Wiv, Lose or Draw (1) (5598549)
- 9.55 Judge Judy (1) (3450075)
- 10.20 News (1) (6245723)
- 10.25 Regional News (1) (6244094)
- 10.30 Children of the Dark (1994) with Tracy Pollan, Peter Horton and Roy Dotrice. A couple whose two children suffer from a rare condition are tormented by their neighbour's ignorance. Directed by Michael Switzer (5121297)
- 12.20pm Regional News (1) (4855297)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (1348384)
- 12.35 Our House (1) (1321075) 1.25 Home and Away (1438836) 1.50 Side Effects (1) (5314100) 2.40 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (1) (535520) 3.20 News (1) (2745471)
- 3.25 Regional News (1) (2744742)
- 3.30 Tote TV (1) (1105055) 3.40 Caribou Kitchen (5840075) 3.50 Cartoon Time (7506841) 4.05 Dr Xargle (1) (7369723) 4.30 Tiny Toon Adventures (1) (1795687) 4.50 How 2 (1) (5557162)
- 5.10 Highway to Heaven (284568)
- 5.50 News (1) and weather (488723)
- 6.00 Home and Away (542758)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (1) (71834)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (471)
- 6.55 HTV Crime Stories (567636)
- 7.00 Wheel of Fortune (1) (4182)
- 7.30 Coronation Street: The pressure begins to mount on Jim. Steve has a new girl in his life (1) (65)
- 8.00 In the Wild: Actress Holly Hunter travels through Namibia's Etosha National Park in search of endangered cheetahs (1) (5507)
- 9.00 Ain't Misbehavin' (2/3) The boys take top billing with the Ray Smiles Orchestra after the demise of their lead singer, and become enmeshed in a plot to bring about the downfall of a murderous gangster. With Jerome Flynn and Robson Green (1) (8471)
- 10.00 News (1) and weather (98568)
- 10.30 Regional News (1) (98735)
- 10.40 The Time Traveller Archaeologist: Mick Aston retells the story of Gloucestershire's deserted medieval village (533758)
- 11.15 Limited Edition (1) (801588)
- 11.45 Tropical Heat (1) (274227)
- 12.00am Nobody Runs Forever (1988) with Christopher Plummer, Rod Taylor and Lilli Palmer. Cold war spy thriller directed by Ralph Thomas (288650)
- 2.35 Rockman (1) (3337872)
- 3.35 God's Gift (1) (8477227)
- 4.35 ITV Sport Classics (70604037)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (71560)
- 5.30 News (58495)



Hunter and cheetah (8.00pm)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 10.30am Our House (79487)
- 11.00 Side Effects (1105636)
- 11.50 Chatsworth (9120568)
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1321075): 1.50 Blue Healers (9319162)
- 2.50-3.20 High Road (6338487)
- 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (284568)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (513655)
- 10.40 Film: Lies of the Twins (9208520)
- 12.40am War of the Worlds (5232582)
- 1.35 Late and Loud (524834)
- 2.40 Film: Cisco Pike (903853)
- As HTV West except:
- 10.30am Our House (79487)
- 11.00 Side Effects (1105636)
- 11.50 Chatsworth (9120568)
- 12.55pm Home and Away (1321075): 1.25 High Road (1091089)
- 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (9327181)
- 2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (5338487)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (284568)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (25100)
- 10.30 Westcountry News (958617)
- 10.45 The View from Here (402487)
- 11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (274297)
- As HTV West except: 10.30am Cartoon Time (2439723) 10.40 David the Gnome (346742) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4815742) 11.25 BraveStar (4891162) 11.50 Dinosaur (9120568) 12.55pm-1.25 Shortland Street (1321075) 1.50 Summer Festival (5813550) 2.30-3.20 Blue Healers (914075) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (284568) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (891) 6.30-7.00 Wildlife Rescue (471) 10.40 Fair Cops (478520) 11.10 Meridian Masterclass (322278) 11.40 Summer Crafts (363834) 12.10 Summer Painting (8533292)
- As HTV West except: 10.30am Cartoon Time (2439723) 10.40 David the Gnome (346742) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4815742) 11.25 BraveStar (4891162) 11.50 Dinosaur (9120568) 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1321075) 1.50 Up Shot (5170742) 2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (4678346) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (284568) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (513655) 10.30 Anglia News (958617) 10.45 Marilyn and Me (28751075) 12.30am Short Sharp Shoeks (7314360)
- As HTV West except: 10.30am Cartoon Time (2439723) 10.40 David the Gnome (346742) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4815742) 11.25 BraveStar (4891162) 11.50 Dinosaur (9120568) 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1321075) 1.50 Up Shot (5170742) 2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (4678346) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (284568) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (513655) 10.30 Anglia News (958617) 10.45 Marilyn and Me (28751075) 12.30am Short Sharp Shoeks (7314360)

ANGLIA

- As HTV West except: 10.30am Cartoon Time (2439723) 10.40 David the Gnome (346742) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4815742) 11.25 BraveStar (4891162) 11.50 Dinosaur (9120568) 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1321075) 1.50 Up Shot (5170742) 2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (4678346) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (284568) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (513655) 10.30 Anglia News (958617) 10.45 Marilyn and Me (28751075) 12.30am Short Sharp Shoeks (7314360)

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- As HTV West except: 10.30am Cartoon Time (2439723) 10.40 David the Gnome (346742) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4815742) 11.25 BraveStar (4891162) 11.50 Dinosaur (9120568) 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1321075) 1.50 Up Shot (5170742) 2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (4678346) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (284568) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (513655) 10.30 Anglia News (958617) 10.45 Marilyn and Me (28751075) 12.30am Short Sharp Shoeks (7314360)

CHALLENGE TV

- Win with Price Take twice an hour. 5.00pm Price Take (1001181) 5.05 Family Fortunes (112556) 5.30 Catchphrase (275656) 7.00 Winner Takes All (198100) 7.40 Give Us a Cue (175704) 8.20 All About (106100) 8.50 Through the Looking Glass (58810) 9.30 Sale of the Century (25089) 10.10 Treasure Hunt (717097) 11.20 Star: Cooch (1) 12.00 Through the Looking Glass (58810) 12.30 Star: Cooch (1) 12.50 Star: Cooch (1) 1.30 Star: Cooch (1) 1.50 Star: Cooch (1) 2.00 Star: Cooch (1) 2.30 Star: Cooch (1) 3.00 Star: Cooch (1) 3.30 Star: Cooch (1) 4.00 Star: Cooch (1) 4.30 Star: Cooch (1) 5.00 Star: Cooch (1) 5.30 Star: Cooch (1) 6.00 Star: Cooch (1) 6.30 Star: Cooch (1) 7.00 Star: Cooch (1) 7.30 Star: Cooch (1) 8.00 Star: Cooch (1) 8.30 Star: Cooch (1) 9.00 Star: Cooch (1) 9.30 Star: Cooch (1) 10.00 Star: Cooch (1) 10.30 Star: Cooch (1) 11.00 Star: Cooch (1) 11.30 Star: Cooch (1) 12.00 Star: Cooch (1) 12.30 Star: Cooch (1) 1.00 Star: Cooch (1) 1.30 Star: Cooch (1) 1.50 Star: Cooch (1) 2.00 Star: Cooch 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ROGER BOOTLE 41

 Should the
Bank frown
and bear it?

BUSINESS

WEEK AHEAD 40

 No shelter
in results
at NatWest


BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY AUGUST 4 1997

Train groups signal new Oxford-Cambridge rail service

BY FRASER NELSON

GO-AHEAD, the transport group, is planning a train service linking Oxford and Cambridge on a network that would be the first long-distance railway built in Britain for 95 years. It is set to be joined by rivals National Express and Prism Rail in carving up a proposed £180 million franchise which will allow rail travel between the two cities avoiding London.

Go-Ahead, which already runs the London to Oxford line, is in talks with a

Railtrack-backed consortium of local authorities which estimate that the new service will take 2.12 million travellers off the road each year. Although the project has for decades been little more than a train-spotter's pipe-dream, its chances of becoming reality have been boosted by Steve Davies Gleave, a transport consultancy, which has identified two routes.

The first is a £100 million network that would attract 3,550 passengers a day and bring in £13.7 million a year in revenue, and the second a £180 million service

attracting 5,800 passengers a day and yielding £21.1 million a year. Even the slower route would deliver an Oxford to Cambridge service within two hours, shaving 40 minutes off the fastest coach route between the two cities.

Roger McDonald, managing director of Thames Trains, whose largest shareholder is Go-Ahead, said: "We have been looking at this project for some time now, and are fairly confident that we could run a full service if it were profitable to do so. In general, we are finding that anything

competing with the M25 does good business, so we are taking this very seriously."

National Express may invest via its North London Railways network, but is only looking at extending its franchise to take in a Bedford to Oxford route. Prism Rail, which runs the London to Cambridge express, has confirmed it is interested in extending its West Anglia and Great Northern services round the Bedford loop. Prism said: "We are quite excited by the prospect of a new route and if there was a situation where we would be asked to

make a bid, we would be delighted." Railtrack said it is willing to pay about half of the costs of a new link — of which half would be recoverable through charges to rail operators. The rest is expected to come from European grants.

Opraf, the rail franchising office which is this year giving out almost £2 billion in subsidy to rail operators, said it has not been approached for funds. However, it is expected that National Express, Go-Ahead and Prism would use promises of new services as bargaining chips to win

extensions on their franchises — which would all be up for renewal in 2003 when the first part of the Oxford-Cambridge link would probably open.

The new network would be constructed by updating the many lines in the area that can carry only freight trains and have 40 miles per hour speed restrictions. After restoring other "mothballed" routes, only ten miles of new track would have to be built. A final decision from the 25 local authorities that have to approve the new network is expected next month.

Virgin bank to take on the clearers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Group is preparing an audacious assault on the high street banks by setting up its own 24-hour telephone banking operation.

The Virgin bank will target well-paid professionals in their thirties and forties who are "disillusioned with their own bank". It will be launched early next year and pilot schemes could be in place this year.

The move will bring Virgin into direct competition with the likes of HSBC Holding's First Direct, but the real target will be dissatisfied customers of the major clearing banks: NatWest, Barclays, Midland and Lloyds TSB.

With the support of its backer, Australian Mutual Provident (AMP), Virgin plans to take on the traditional providers of current and deposit accounts. "This is a major new venture for us in the financial services market," said Tony Wood, Virgin's marketing director. "First Direct has carved its own niche so we will be after the customers of the big clearing banks."

The move comes after Virgin successfully challenged the might of the unit trust industry by launching its own branded index-tracking personal equity plan. Virgin Direct, the group's financial

Sainsbury's Bank has won over £600 million in deposits and 350,000 customers in the six months since it launched (Caroline Merrell writes).

The supermarket said the high number of customers put it ahead of its business target. The bank is expected to cost about £30 million to set up.

The rate on the bank's instant access account is one of the highest available. All balances, no matter how small, attract an interest rate of 6.15 per cent. This rate is nearly double that offered by many high street banks on instant access.

services arm, also ruffled the pensions industry by launching simple, low-cost pensions products by telephone.

Virgin's rivals said the strategy of targeting young professionals was further evidence of Virgin's strategy of "cherry-picking", an allegation directed at the group's life insurance products.

Virgin Direct now has £1 billion under management on behalf of 200,000 investors in its index-tracking unit trust. Since it was launched two and a half years ago it now has more than 50 per cent of the index-tracking market and 12 per cent of the personal equity plan market.

However, the group is not

thought to be contemplating the purchase of a mutual building society. It is believed to have considered — and then dismissed — buying Birmingham Midshires and the Nationwide, which last month defeated an attempt by outsiders to seize control of its board. One factor is thought to be the high expense of a branch network.

Nevertheless, a further foray into life assurance could be on the cards. AMP has increased its investment in Virgin from £55 million to £400 million but still has a substantial warehouse, which it could use to buy a larger chunk of the UK savings and pensions market.

AMP had been preparing a bid for Norwich Union when the life mutual floated on the stock market in June, but was discouraged at the last minute by the insurer's high price tag after a run on financial services stocks in the preceding months. Bid speculation had also pushed up the potential price of another AMP's target, the mutual insurer NPI.

Analysts do not expect predators to bid for mutual life insurers while the FTSE 100 is still rising and prices are high. They predict that a market correction will force mutuals into flotation or partnerships because they will be unable to maintain current bonus rates. Among those regarded as targets are Friends Provident, Scottish Widows, NPI and Equitable Life.



Sophia Smith with a Sanatogen-fortified fruit juice drink being aimed at Britain's breakfast tables by the Roche pharmaceuticals company

Sanatogen up for breakfast

THE maker of Sanatogen multivitamins is to mount an assault on the breakfast market with its own fruit juice.

Roche, the pharmaceuticals company, is billing its Start-Up! — a drink with almost twice as many vitamins as milk — as the drug industry's equivalent of chocolate firms entering the ice cream market. Start-Up! is aimed at the 86 per cent of people not taking vitamin pills. Sophia Smith, marketing manager, said it could add £10 million to Sanatogen's £40 million annual sales.

Dividends add £93 to water bills

BY JASON NISSE

CUSTOMERS of North West Water contributed £93 each last year to dividends paid by the group to its parent company, United Utilities.

The figure, which accounts for 42 per cent of the average water bill, is included in returns made by North West to Ian Byatt, the Ofwat water regulator. They are revealed in a report by Waterwatch, the lobby group, as part of a submission to Margaret Beckett,

President of the Board of Trade, calling for tougher regulation of water companies.

The report will also fuel the "fat cat" debate in United, whose chairman, Sir Desmond Pitcher, is under pressure after the sacking of the chief executive, Brian Staples.

Waterwatch says that North West, in spite of making profits of £135 million in the last financial year, paid United a dividend of £354 million,

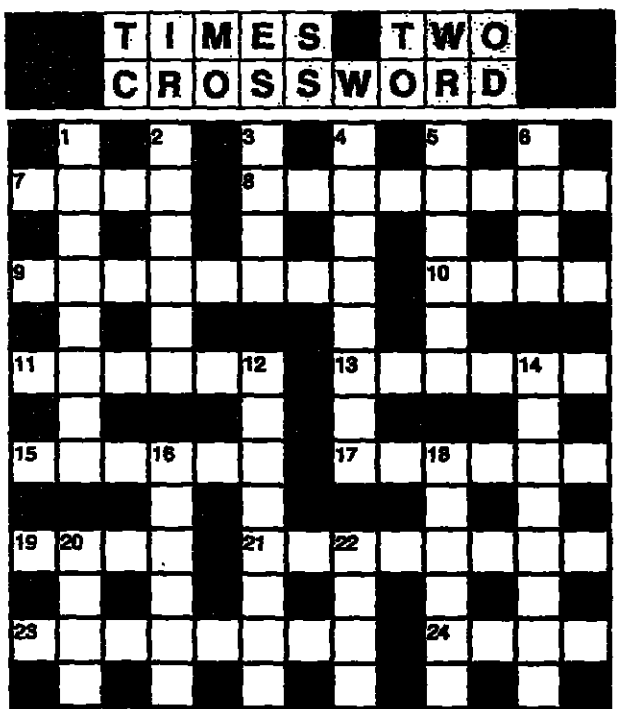
and had to take on extra borrowing to cover the payout. It was the largest dividend paid by any water company.

The next highest was by Severn Trent, whose payout equalled £60 a customer, and a similar level of contribution came from Wessex. Customers contributed least with Southern, passing on just £23.12 to its shareholders.

United justified its payout by saying that North West also

gave more back to customers in rebates than any other water company. "This just shows how efficient we are, rewarding customers and shareholders," a spokesman said.

Pete Bowler, of Waterwatch, said: "Customers are paying too much for the privilege of being captive customers of the big water companies. The regulatory system operated by Ofwat has failed both customers and the environment."



No 1163

ACROSS

- 7 To fillet (mean) (4)
- 8 24 Tarsus-influencing monk (8)
- 9 Sugar/egg-white bake (8)
- 10 Tax ring (4)
- 11 Sick feeling (6)
- 12 A plant: fragility (6)
- 13 Liquid container: ship (6)
- 17 Bribe (one) to do wrong (6)
- 19 Tap (inpatient fingers) (4)
- 21 One from Russian Far East (8)
- 23 Poisonous (8)
- 24 Anti-aircraft fire: abuse (4)

DOWN

- 1 To calm: not extreme (8)
- 2 Special, brilliant nature (6)
- 3 Sleep rock (4)
- 4 A fire-retardant (8)
- 5 Customer: one polling boat (6)
- 6 Medicine tablet (4)
- 12 Oblique reference (8)
- 14 Start (shooting questions) (4,4)
- 16 Delflah sheared him (6)
- 18 Deprived (6) (6)
- 20 A dance: spool (4)
- 22 Make music in street (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1162

ACROSS: 1 Visa-vis 5 Power 8 Grill 9 Admiral 10 Tunnel vision 12 Thuring 14 Snapper 17 Battering ram 21 Whippet 22 Mound 23 Poser 24 Handler

DOWN: 1 Vegetable 2 Scion 3 Villain 4 Starve 5 Pumps 6 Warlock 7 Rare 11 Promoter 13 Reunites 15 Marmite 16 Crutch 18 Taper 19 Renal 20 Swap

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Three more to join Brown's team of advisers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ED BALLS, the 30-year old former financial journalist, is expected to be named as a member of Gordon Brown's new US-style council of economic advisers.

Gavin Davies, the Goldman Sachs economist was also appointed to the committee last week. He lost out to Mervyn King in the battle to become Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, with many speculating that the reason behind the decision was that Mr Davies is too close to the Chancellor.

The Treasury will also announce this week that Paul Gregg, of the London School of Economics centre for Economic Performance, and Chris Wales, tax partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountant, are to join the new CEA team to assist in policy decisions at the Treasury.

The announcement comes amid increasing tension between the Treasury and the Bank of England.

One report yesterday sug-

gested that Mr Balls would become co-ordinator of the CEA, quashing speculation that the job would go to Gavin Davies. However, Treasury sources said there were no plans to appoint a chairman for the CEA, although a co-ordinator might be needed at a later date.

The CEA, which is to be modelled on the White House in-house think-tank, may be bolstered by other appointments. Mr Gregg and Mr Wales will work with civil servants giving policy advice to the Chancellor.

Mr Gregg is expected to concentrate on the Welfare-to-Work programme while Mr Wales will contribute to Labour's corporate tax review. The Treasury described reports that Sir Terry Burns, its Permanent Secretary, might be lured away from the job he has held for the past 17 years to take charge of the London Business School as "speculative". Sir Terry was at LBC before joining the Treasury.

Hampel to take softer stance on governance

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Hampel committee, which has spent 18 months reviewing the regulation of corporate governance in the UK, is to recommend a softening of the stance proposed in the previous Cadbury and Greenbury reports.

The preliminary report of the committee led by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, published tomorrow, reviewed the results of the previous reports by Sir Adrian Cadbury and Sir Richard Greenbury. It is expected to suggest that instead of hard and fast rules about how a company should be run, firms should merely have to disclose their reasons for particular corporate structures.

For instance, the Hampel report will say that many companies do not believe that the recommendation in the Cadbury report that there should be separate chairmen and chief executives for large companies is appropriate in their cases.

And it will reject suggestions that companies should run themselves in the interests of anyone other than their shareholders. Lobby groups have argued that customers, employees or environmental issues should have as much influence as delivering a good return for shareholders.

The report is expected to anger corporate governance activists such as Fire, the pensions advisory body, and leading fund managers such as Hermes and Standard Life. They have pressed for a tighter regime on corporate pay, management structures and the general behaviour of the management of leading companies.

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